

The Smithfield Town Council reconvened its April 25, 2022 meeting on Monday, April 26, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

Councilmen Present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Dunn
 Marlon Lee – District 1
 David Stevens, District 2
 Travis Scott, District 3 (participated via Zoom)
 Dr. David Barbour, District 4 (participated via Zoom)
 Stephen Rabil, At- Large
 Roger Wood, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Administrative Staff Present

Michael Scott, Town Manager
 Michael Brown – Fire Chief
 Ted Credle – Public Utilities Director
 Lawrence Davis – Public Works Director
 Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director
 Tim Kerigan, Human Resources/PIO
 Shannan Parrish, Town Clerk
 R. Keith Powell, Chief of Police
 Greg Siler, Finance Director
 Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Reconvene: April 25, 2022 Meeting

Mayor Moore reconvened the meeting at 6:30 pm

1. Non-Departmental / Nonprofit Requests

a. Innovation Academy

The Innovation Academy requested \$1,000. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$1,000. A representative from the Innovation Academy was not present at the meeting due to being in attendance at the Flame for Learning event.

b. Neuse Charter School

Neuse Charter School requested \$1,000. Funding in FY 2022-2023 was \$1,000. A representative from Neuse Charter School was not present at the meeting due being in attendance at the Neuse Charter School's Board of Directors Meeting.

c. Smithfield Middle School

Smithfield Middle School requested \$1,000. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$1,000. A representative from the Innovation Academy was not present at the meeting due to being in attendance at the Flame for Learning event.

d. Smithfield Selma High School

Smithfield Selma High School requested \$2,000. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$2,000. A representative from the Innovation Academy was not present at the meeting due to being in attendance at the Flame for Learning event.

e. South Smithfield Elementary

South Smithfield Elementary School requested \$2,000. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$1,000. Hadley Stewart explained the funds would be used for teacher and staff appreciation.

f. Career and Technical Leadership Academy

The Career and Technical Leadership Academy requested \$1,000. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$1,000. Principal Sheila Singleton explained the funds would be used for teacher and staff appreciation.

g. West Smithfield Elementary

West Smithfield Elementary School requested \$2,000. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$2,000. Principal Derrick McNeil explained the requested funds would be used to update the school's Library and for teacher and staff appreciation

h. FRC Team 6004 Fx Robotics

The FRC Team 6004 fx Robotics Team requested \$2,000. This request was not included in the budget. Members of the Robotics Team explained the club and how it helps promote careers in the STEM fields. They explained that they do not have adequate room or equipment for the team.

i. Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation (DSDC)

Town Manager Michael Scott explained the Town has tried to keep the DSDC's funding to \$150,000 which is a total of motor vehicle taxes and the Town's donation. The DSDC was requesting \$45,253.50 while the Town Manager was proposing \$27,765 for a total funding of \$151,460. The Town Manager explained that the Town does not use those funds for approximately five years, after that period, the funds are given to the DSDC.

Executive Director Sarah Edwards explained the DSDC has been a Main Street partner to the town for about 35 years. She explained the main project the DSDC would be undertaking would be the downtown master plan.

Councilman Scott questioned how it would affect DSDC's operations if her funding request was not approved. Sarah Edwards responded it would limit events and other operations of the DSDC.

Councilman Wood questioned the types of the events and operations the DSDC would like to be but are unable to due to funding. Sarah Edwards responded the DSDC would like to do some fall events like a Food Truck Rodeo and a Craft Beer Crawl. Another item would be downtown branding and marketing. She further explained that the Master Plan will identify things that will need to be done that may not be able to be done due to lack of funding.

Mayor Moore questioned the cost of the Master Plan. Sarah Edwards responded the cost is approximately \$75,000.

Councilman Barbour questioned if there had been any discussion on the traffic flow on Market Street. Sarah Edwards responded that traffic was a component of the Master Plan.

j. Harbor, Inc.

Harbor, Inc. requested \$2,500. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$2,500. Executive Director Kay Johnson explained the requested funds would be used to help assist with securing nurses that were on call 24 hours day 7 days a week.

k. Community and Senior Services of Johnston County

Community and Senior Services of Johnston County requested \$3,500. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$3,500. Executive Director Neal Davis expressed his appreciation for the continued support. Mr. Davis explained the funds would be used for meals and meal delivery.

l. Ava Gardner Museum

The Ava Gardner Museum requested \$25,000. Funding in FY 2021-2022 was \$22,000. Executive Director Lynell Seabold explained the Gardner Museum was an integral part of the local economy. The funds received from the Town of Smithfield are used to pay a portion of the museum director salary. \$3,000 was needed to replace the humidity system.

The Town Manager asked Lynell Seabold to explain the issues she faced due to the lack of a fire suppression system. Ms. Seabold responded that people will not allow their collections to be displayed at the museum because there is not a sprinkle system installed. The cost for a sprinkler system would be \$150,000.

m. Triangle East Economic Development Foundation

Triangle East Chamber of Commerce requested \$4,000. No funding was provided in FY 2021-2022. Executive Director Maureen McGinnis explained the funds would be used for economic growth and marketing efforts.

n. Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield

The Library of Johnston County and Smithfield was requesting \$280,000. Funding for FY 2021-2022 was \$270,000. Library Executive Director Johnnie Pippin provided an overview of the library's operations, its services, its affiliate libraries, and the number of citizens it served.

Councilman Stevens asked Mr. Pippin to contact the West Smithfield Elementary School Principal who was in need of updating the school's library.

o. Annie D. Jones Child Enrichment Fund

The Annie D. Jones Child Enrichment Fund was requesting \$2,000. Due to the pandemic, Executive Director Kay McDuffie did not request funding in FY 2021-2022. Mrs. McDuffie explained that funds would be used to provide scholarships to underprivileged children in the East Smithfield Community. These scholarships provide the opportunity to participate in sports, gymnastics, theater and music.

Non-Departmental

Town Manager Michael Scott reviewed other line items in the FY 2022-2023 non-departmental budget. They are as follows:

- Insurance & Bonds: 5% increase in this line due to projected property and liability and workers compensation increases. Final estimates have not been received
- Unemployment: This was an estimate and was contingent on former employees receiving unemployment benefits.
- Economic Development: \$15,000 increase in this line due to the East River reimbursement agreement.
- SHARP Reimbursements: 10% reduction in this line because the Schmidlin Law Office SHARP reimbursement has been satisfied. In FY 2024, the Amazon reimbursement will begin. Currently, there are only two SHARP Grants: Sound Station & Penn Compression.

Debt Service

Town Manager Michael Scott informed the Council that there was no new debt proposed in the FY 2022-2023 budget. The last payment on the garbage truck loan was due on 1/20/2023

Adjourn

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 pm.

ATTEST:


Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk




M. Andy Moore, Mayor