SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 6, 2017 – 4:00 PM
MUNICIPAL COURT COURTROOM
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tempore Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Sheldon A. Butts
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Edward S. Kimbrough, Jr.
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

ALSO PRESENT
Mr. Paul A. Gardner, City Administrator
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Miss Suzanne Abed-El-Latif, HR Manager
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Will Cook, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Superintendent
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities - Arrived at 4:30 PM
Mr. Rick Martin, Building Official/Zoning Administrator
Mrs. Gloria Bromell-Tinubu, Economic Development Director
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department

ABSENT
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney

MEDIA
GAB News - Scott Harper

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr. called the Special Meeting/Workshop of City Council to order at 4:00 PM and requested all cell phones or electronic devices be turned off or placed on mute so as to not interrupt the meeting.

3. POWERPOINT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Paul Gardner said the budget presented is balanced. Tonight is the basic introduction of the budget. Individual sessions with Mayor and Council are scheduled for April 17-21. The first budget workshop will be held April 27.

The budget includes one personnel request for a water treatment operator, a ½% increase in the State retirement to make up a shortfall and a 2.5% salary increase for longevity and merit. Mr. Gardner reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and noted over half of the budget expense ($17,631,697) is for capital expenditures, which includes a new water tower, a new fire station, and a major sewer renovation and survey project in the West End. The General Fund accounts for a third of the budget, ($10,794,812) and O&M totals $5,255,599. The Electric Department's budget ($12,983,841) includes the purchase of power. Water and Wastewater budgets total $5,881,463, Stormwater totals $989,978 and Waste Management totals $953,340.

The projected fund balance as of June 30, 2017 is $12,909,224. Projections show the 2017/2018 General Fund operating budget compared to 2016/2017 will only increase by $312,333. We have no control over some of the increases. Hurricane Matthew's total cost to the City was $623,868. We hope to receive 75% of those costs from FEMA. The cost of a temporary city hall ($100,000) plus the cost from Matthew totals more than $723,000 in unanticipated expenses this year.

The proposed budget includes a 1.98 mil increase ($65,142), which is the allowed increase. The last stormwater rate increase was in 2006. The proposed budget includes a monthly increase from $4.00 to $6.00 ($200,000). This will fund a Stormwater Master Plan for the City. The proposed budget does not included increases for water rates, wastewater rates or sanitation rates. This is for Council's consideration. The Wastewater and Waste Management Funds are operating in a deficit. Mr. Gardner believes the number one role of an enterprise fund is not to operate in a deficit…it is supposed to be self-sufficient. A ten year rate history was provided for property taxes, debt millage, electric, sanitation, stormwater, water and sewer rates.

Following is a summary of fund balances as of March 31, 2017: General Fund $3,468,015; Capital Projects $3,468,015 (restricted); Electric Fund $4,825,542; Water Fund $2,320,232; Wastewater $1,397,970 (restricted); Wastewater $3,226 (restricted); Spencer Guerry Scholarship Fund $31,570 (restricted). The net available is $10,613,790.

Mr. Gardner reviewed the Accommodations and Hospitality Tax budget projections and the capital improvements program by fund.

Council was updated on the CDBG Congdon/Lynch Streets project. The City continues to have a problem obtaining a permit from CSX; however, we are hopeful to have an answer within the next thirty days.

Four vehicles are being requested in the budget: one for City Hall, one for water and sewer, one for public works and one for the police department which would be paid by seized and forfeited funds. Pictures and information on the vehicles to be replaced were provided.

Discussions followed. Mayor Pro Tempore Barber referenced a case the City of Columbia lost concerning the transfer of funds from enterprise funds to the General Fund and asked where the City is on this matter. Mr. Gardner said since that ruling we have taken Council action every year to acknowledge that and comply with the law. Currently $1.4 million is budgeted as a transfer from the Electric Fund to the General Fund. Mrs. Bivens stated as long as we can determine that there is a surplus in the Electric Fund, we are within the law to transfer. Mr. Gardner reiterated we have complied with the actions approved by Council.

Council Member Butts spoke to the needs for a Public Information Officer and a Code Enforcement Officer and asked for consideration.

When asked, Mr. Gardner said the sewer line on Merriman Road is currently being monitored. Once the five points construction is complete, plans are to replace the line in front of Lamar’s from manhole to manhole by the gas station.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting/Workshop was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 05/18/17