CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
MAY 7, 2019 – 4:00 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws as amended.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley
Council Member Sheldon A. Butts
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

MEMBERS ABSENT
Council Member Tupelo Humes

ALSO PRESENT
Mr. Carey F. Smith, Interim City Administrator
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mrs. Suzanne Anderson, HR Manager
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Will Gunter, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Ms. Angela Rambeau, Director of Planning and Community Development
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

ABSENT
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney

MEDIA
GAB News - Mr. Scott Harper

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr. called the Budget Workshop/Special Meeting of City Council to order at 4:00 p.m. and requested all cell phones or electronic devices be turned off or placed on mute, with the exception of first responders, so as to not interrupt the meeting.

3. REVIEW OF ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2019/2020 BUDGET.

Mr. Carey Smith introduced Ms. Vicki Bourus, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center, to present information regarding the services they provide to the community and request to be included in the budget. Ms. Bourus stated the Family Justice Center has a $993,000 budget and they are running about $108,000 short from the budget this year. Ms. Bourus commented they have also requested money from Georgetown County, City of Myrtle Beach, and Horry County.

Mrs. Debra Bivens stated the total budget as balanced and presented is $33,129,168. Based on the previous budget workshop, the General Fund portion of the budget is truly balanced. We are using no Fund balance and have a surplus at this time of $17,123. That is the first time we have had a surplus in the General Fund in ten years. Mrs. Bivens reviewed items that are included in the budget and discussed in the previous Budget workshop which include: Business License Rate adjustment of 8% or $160,000; Longevity and Merit increases for employees for an overall average of 3% or $175,000; Water Rate adjustment of 5% or $112,645; Wastewater Rate adjustment of 5% or $121,540; Property Tax Rate adjustment of 3.4% or $122,000.

Mayor Barber asked to discuss the School Crossing Guard and Parking issues to get a perspective on what it would cost compared to keeping the fire truck along with firemen at the crosswalk of High Market and Lafayette Streets. Mr. Smith responded that staff is recommending to utilize two to three part time employees to use as School Crossing Guards as a short term goal until we can get a permanent solution which is a traffic light at that intersection. Staff also recommends to use these part time employees to enforce the two hour parking program on Front Street. Currently with using the Fire Department at the crosswalk, we use one firetruck along with three firemen and the daily cost is $285.72. There are 180 days in the school year, which makes the annual cost $51,430. During 2017-2018 school year, the Fire Department either left early, arrived late, or missed the occasion all together nearly one third of the time due to being on a call. During this school year as of April 30, 2019, The Fire Department either left early, arrived late, or missed the occasion 33% of the time. The Fire Department has been guarding the crosswalk for twenty seven years. Council Member Joseph asked if the School District has compensated the City during those twenty seven years and Mr. Smith responded that they have not. The cost of three part time employees working two hours a day for 180 days a year would be $17,280 plus training and uniforms. Discussions followed. Mayor Barber stated that there has been conversations with State Officials regarding the State putting a traffic light at the intersection and the City would share the cost. The cost is not the issue, there has to be permission to install the traffic light. The long term goal is to get the School District along with the City and the State to get a traffic light. Council Member Jayroe suggested to form a committee to get a plan of action. Mr. Smith stated with a consensus this would be put into the budget.

In response to previous inquiries from Council Member Butts and Mayor Tempore Bradley, Mr. Smith stated they surveyed ten cities regarding Mayor and Council compensation. Our Council compensation is $5,280 and the Mayor Is $8,250. In comparison to the survey, our Council compensation is slightly below the minimum. Seven out of the ten cities surveyed have a larger compensation compared to our Mayor's compensation. Mr. Smith stated the City pays $1,636,641. For health insurance costs. If the City was to pay 100% of the costs for employees, it would cost the City an additional $177,345.

Mrs. Bivens stated that there is a surplus of $17,123 and that will go towards the part time School Crossing Guards based on the consensus. The $53,000 collected annually from credit card transaction fees would be distributed between all of the funds. The General Fund would get $5,300. Mrs. Bivens asked for direction from Council regarding the Family Justice Center's request to be put in the budget. Discussions followed. Mrs. Bivens and Mr. Smith confirmed that there is no availability of funds, something would have to be removed from the budget in order for the City to give funds to the Family Justice Center.

Mr. Tim Chatman presented information regarding the request for an added full time position in the Public Works Department. Mr. Chatman stated the summer months require more work load and employees are more likely to go on vacation at that time causing a shortfall in the department. Mr. Chatman stated the duties fall behind such as trash pickup and overtime increases the costs.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley asked Mr. Orlando Arteaga for explanation regarding the requests of two vehicles for the Engineering Department. Staff is requesting that one vehicle is approved in the budget. Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley asked Mr. Alan Loveless for explanation regarding the request of a vehicle for the Electric Department.

Mrs. Bivens commented there were a couple of changes in the A-Tax and H-Tax budget because we were able to pay for them in this fiscal year so we can reduce the budget for next year. The Silting Feasibility Study, it was $42,700 and it was reduced to $40,000. Also the Project Vista is budgeted for $75,000 but we are hoping to pay all of that in this fiscal year so that amount will be reduced to zero for next year. The fully sponsored events was reduced from $20,000 to $16,500 and co-sponsored events was reduced from $15,000 to $8,500.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley adjourned the Budget Workshop/Special Meeting at 5:38pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 07/25/19