

April 10, 2019

A Special Meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at 8:30 a.m., all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor
Chauncey Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem
Sarah Church, Councilmember
Mark Howard, Councilmember
Rita Langley, Councilmember
Tim Reese, Councilmember
Bachman Smith, IV, Councilmember

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. Staff members present were: Andy Benke, Jason Blanton, Greg Gress, Chris Griffin, Mandy Hawver, Courtney Liles and Anthony Stith. There were three members of the audience present, with no members of the media present. The purpose of the special meeting was to review and discuss Capital Projects, the General Fund Operating Proposed Budget for FY2020 and the Water and Sewer Operating Proposed Budget for FY2020. Mayor O'Neil stated there will be no decisions or votes on any particular projects.

Review and discussion of capital projects:

Comptroller Blanton began the meeting with reviewing the Estimated Timeline for Projects (Attachment 1). The items in orange are amounts and timelines that are based on contract amounts and work which has been started. The items in yellow are amounts based on an estimate which is 90% complete. The timeline is estimated, but based off the work already completed. The items in blue are the timelines and amounts that are estimates. The estimates have not been started. The total project fund balance is \$19,481,090.00 with \$17,847,240.00 from bonds and \$1,633,850.00 from land sales.

The total cost of pending and potential projects is approximately \$21.7 million dollars. A long-range projection shows a shortfall in the project fund balance around August 2020. Various projects are included in that amount. The remaining Sewer Line I&I project is \$4,491,428.00. The Sewer line on Middle Street crossing at Station 20.5 Street is \$310,000.00, which includes the engineering and construction of the project. The SC-DOT re-surfacing regulations may slightly change the total. The Old Bridge Rehab project is \$250,000.00. The Wastewater Treatment Plant project total is \$12,120,646.00 with design and engineering totaling \$501,678.00 and construction totaling \$11,618,968.00. Storm water project estimated total is \$375,000.00, which is the Town's portion (25%). Fire Station improvements project estimate is \$600,000.00.

This project has not been started yet. The Storage Building estimate is \$125,000.00. This building is for the Police Department and Maintenance Department to store their equipment. The Lift Station Floodproofing project total is \$3,473,073.00 with the design and engineering totaling \$207,220.00 and construction totaling \$3,265,853.00.

Questions and Comments:

Mayor O'Neil added if the Town proceeds with the design and engineering for the Lift Station Floodproofing project, then Town could apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant which could assist in the construction cost.

Councilmember Bachman Smith IV suggested planning earlier rather than later for a shortfall in the project fund balance.

Greg Hammond (2115 Pettigrew Street) asked if monthly outflows incorporate debt services. Comptroller Blanton answered debt services are paid through property taxes and is listed on the operating budget. The Town is required through the State Statute to increase millage in order to pay for the debt services each year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark asked why the cost for design and engineering for the Wastewater Treatment Plant is approximately \$30,000.00/month. Mayor O'Neil stated the total is a fixed price and is spread out over the many months. Greg Gress answered the amount is for daily on-site observation on the project.

Wayne Guckenberger (2105 Pettigrew Street) stated that now is the time to talk about if a bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant comes in 20% higher than expected and planning accordingly. Mayor O'Neil stated that one alternative is we do not start the other projects until the hard numbers are in around August 2019. Councilmember Tim Reese stated that the construction cost of the Lift Station Floodproofing could be the safety net since it is scheduled for November 2019 and is approximately \$3.3 million dollars.

Councilmember Sarah Church suggested selling the former Town Hall since it is a liability and the value is depreciating.

Greg Hammond asked if Council delays the approximately \$3.3 million dollars, how does it get paid in the future and how will they set aside for it. Councilmember Bachman Smith IV answered Council needs to be prepared to sell a lot or two in order to make up for the potential shortfall.

General Fund Operating Proposed Budget for FY2020:

Comptroller Blanton explained the general fund operating proposed budget report for FY2020 (Attachment 2). Items of discussion included: installment purchase revenue bond annual payments, property taxes, legal fees, Victims' Rights fund, business license and building permit revenue increases and new radios for the Fire and Police Departments.

Councilmember Sarah Church asked for the recreation department projects recommended budget be reduced from \$25,000.00 to \$15,000.00.

Water and Sewer Operating Proposed Budget for FY2020:

Greg Gress explained the water and sewer fund operating proposed budget report for FY2020 (Attachment 3). Increases/decreases are in reference to FY2019 budget amount. Items of discussion included: capital improvements plan, salary increases, billed usage projections and estimated budget increase.

Review of budget timeline (Attachment 4):

First Reading of the FY2020 budgets is scheduled for April 16, 2019. A Public Hearing and Second Reading will be held on May 21, 2019. Third Reading and Ratification will be held on June 18, 2019.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, seconded by Councilmember Tim Reese, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Courtney Liles