



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina  
Town Council Public Hearing Budget FY 2025  
Tuesday, May 21, 2024**

A Special Public Hearing Meeting of the Town Council was held on the above date at approximately 6:00 p.m., all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor  
Justin Novak, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Ned Higgins, Councilmember  
Carl Hubbard, Councilmember  
Scott Millimet, Councilmember  
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Councilmember Jody Latham previously notified Council that she would not be available for this meeting.

Staff members present were Town Administrator Andy Benke, Town Attorney Larry Dodds, Monty Anders, Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Curt Gibbons, Greg Gress, Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann.

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. There were over thirty (30) members of the public present and two (2) members of the media present. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to have a Public Hearing to review and discuss the General Fund Operating Proposed Budget for FY2025 and the Water and Sewer Budget for FY 2025.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to amend the agenda to place item three at item one, item two at item three, and item three at item four, passed unanimously.**

**1. Public Hearing, Ordinance 2024-02, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025**

Finance Committee Chair Scott Millimet gave a brief introduction and explained the FY 2024 budget still has a few more weeks until FY 2025 begins, as well as gave an update on what has already been covered.

Comptroller Jason Blanton briefed Council on the General Budget for FY2025 with a PowerPoint presentation. The budget balance for FY 2025 is around \$11.5 million, making it an increase of approximately 10% over FY 2024. One reason is the consumer price index increase of 3.4%. He then briefly went over other aspects of the budget including property taxes, revenue items, departmental expenses, etc. He also reviewed the changes in budget for each individual department; fire, police, administration, building and planning, maintenance, and recreation.

The FY 2025 budget is balanced as required by State Code. The FY 2025 budgeted revenue and expenditures increased by 10% and there is a decrease in the budgeted expenditures compared to the FY 2024 projected expenditures of 1.5%.

## **2. Public Hearing, Ordinance 2024-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water and Sewer Budget for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025**

Mayor Pro-Tem and Water & Sewer Committee Chair Novak and Water & Sewer Manager Greg Gress presented the budget for FY 2025. Chair Novak stated the budget was discussed at last month's Committee meeting and is available to the public. The Water budget for FY 2025 is \$1,349,801.46, a \$32,485 increase from FY 2024 (2.63%) and the Sewer budget is \$1,417,015.43, a \$43,453 increase (3.18%). The main reason for the increases in both budgets is due to the 4% increase in salaries, due to the costs of living, as well as required new lab equipment. Domestic water will see a combined increase of 4% in their water bills.

## **3. Public Comment**

- **Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic Ave** – questions about ongoing mediation with Charleston Water System and our contract with them. Is also concerned that the Town matches grants and residents are not asked for their opinions. She would like to know the plan for paying off the Town's debt.
- **Melanie Burkhold, 1660 Atlantic Ave** – has concerns about the amount of debt the Town owes as well as what the Town prioritizes for the budget.

## **4. Adjourn**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Higgins, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m., passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch