



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina  
Town Council Public Hearing Budget FY 2024  
Tuesday, May 16, 2023**

A Special Public Hearing Meeting of 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  
Bachman Smith, IV, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Greg Hammond, Councilmember  
Justin Novak, Councilmember  
Kaye Smith, Councilmember  
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Staff members present were Town Administrator Andy Benke, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Deputy Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Town Attorney Larry Dodds, Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Greg Gress, 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 approximately twenty (20) members of the public present and no 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 FY2024 and the Water and Sewer Budget for FY 2024.

**1. Public Hearing, Ordinance 2023-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024**

Comptroller Jason Blanton briefed Council on the General Budget for FY 2024. Currently, Revenue and Expenses are balanced at \$10,449,618. He reviewed the budgets for each department, and these are available to view in his report attached to these minutes. He also stated COLA for the year is set at 6.5% and explained the reasons various budgets have increased, including rising insurance and retirement costs. He also confirmed nothing had changed since the Finance Committee meeting and First Reading.

**2. Public Hearing, Ordinance 2023-04, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water and Sewer Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024**

Comptroller Jason Blanton also briefed Council on the Water and Sewer Budget for FY 2024. He stated the average 6,000-gallon user will see a combined increase of 3.7% in their water and sewer bill. Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith stated the national average increase is between 6-7%. Mr. Gress stated there have been no changes since First Reading.

Town Administrator Andy Benke stated this is a good, fair budget and is within the CPI, and he appreciates the hard work from Town Staff.

**3. Public Comment** – No public comment

**4. Adjourn**

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak, to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m., passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch