

**Minutes
Budget Workshop
Yvonne C. Butler Council Chambers, 700 Paris Avenue**

May 12, 2010

Members Present: Mayor Sam Murray and Councilmembers Vernon DeLoach, Mary Beth Heyward, Joe Lee and Henry Robinson

Staff Present: Town Manager Van Willis, Planning Administrator Linda Bridges, Police Chief Jim Cadien, Lt. Alan Beach, Fire Chief Sammy Negron and Municipal Clerk Tanya Payne

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Murray called the workshop to order at 5:25 pm.

II. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

A. Fire Department:

Town Manager Willis reviewed the Fire Department budget. He said the contract for personnel had increased significantly due to the yearend reconciliation with the City of Beaufort. He said this included a four percent pay adjustment and a twenty-five percent increase in health insurance for nine employees. Mr. Willis told Council debt service had decreased because the Expedition was paid off leaving the ladder truck and the engine as debt service. He explained needed building maintenance on the fire station could be funded through TIF funds since the building is located in the TIF district. Mr. Willis said the total budget of just over a million dollars included payment to the Burton Fire District since there had been no settlement on that issue yet.

B. Police Department:

Town Manager Willis told Council debt-service had been retired on some of the police vehicles and that the department would be able to purchase some new cars this year as scheduled. He explained these purchases would show up as debt service in next year's budget. Mr. Willis explained the salaries line had increased due to longevity raises but said workmen's compensation was down. Mr. Willis said travel and training was up from last year. He said the budget was almost the same as last year's and was looking good.

Lt. Beach told Council the police department was training officers to be instructors which would in turn save money as the department begins to train its own officers.

C. Public Works:

Town Manager Willis said the largest item on the public works budget was the match for the Ft. Frederick sewer project. He said the department was short two employees and would most likely be replacing only one. Mr. Willis explained he was considering contracting out mowing along the major corridors. He said other department requests were chain saws and garbage bags and said there were no major changes this year. Mr. Willis explained that some street work could be funded through stormwater funds if the work was directly related to stormwater runoff. He explained that mowing along the right-of ways and street sweeping could in some instances affect stormwater drainage.

D. Building Codes and Safety:

Town Manager Willis said there was very little change in the building and safety budget. He told Council the cutting of dangerous trees from the right-of-ways was a very important in safety issue. Also included in the requests were for supplies to bring the Town in conformity with OSHA requirements.

Town Manager Willis explained there was very little change in the total budget for fiscal year 2010-2011. He discussed problems that had arisen because the county had incorrectly valued the mil for last year's budget. Mr. Willis further explained the county had been incorrectly taxing property in District 112 as District 110. He said staff had been proofing the tax rolls to insure property is being taxed correctly.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

The workshop adjourned at 6:02 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Tanya L. Payne
Municipal Clerk

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, notification of the workshop was posted on the Town bulletin board two weeks in advance of the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and posted at the meeting location twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.