

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Monday, February 3, 2020
Immediately following Special Meeting of Town Council
Town Hall Council Chambers

Mayor Tewalt advised that there would be no discussion tonight from the public and asked that the public be courteous and quiet during the discussion.

1. Recommended Budget – Review of Revenues and General Fund Expenditures – Interim Town Manager Tederick gave an overview of the proposed budget and thanked staff especially Director of Finance Wilson for all their hard work going into tonight's presentation. Council was given three (3) handouts in advance: Historical Trends, Supplemental Graphs and the FY20-21 Proposed Annual Budget. He chose the Historical Trends to present first. He then proceeded to present the Proposed Budget encouraging the use of the supplemental graphs as a guide. Mr. Tederick reminded Council that they could choose not to reduce the tax rate as proposed in the budget. He continued with highlighting specific items in each department rather than line item by line item.

Council Cockrell voiced the importance of how the Town's expenses have risen 35% but not the population.

Mayor Tewalt questioned the 4.8 million for roads. Mr. Wilson and Director of Public Works Boyer clarified that this would take the Town to 2027 for secondary roads.

Mr. Wilson also noted that he would be seeking financing for the Redundant Water Line with the anticipation of 0% interest rate. Vice Mayor Sealock questioned the Debt Ratio. Mr. Wilson advised that it was 3.01 (page 126 of the 2019 CAFR).

Councilman Gillispie confirmed that DEQ could fine the Town significantly if the I & I issues were not corrected which would mean no more sewer taps until the Town got a handle on the issues.

After going over the three options, Mr. Tederick advised Council that they would need to determine which option they will be choosing so staff can prepare the budget and set the tax rate. Mr. Wilson advised that at the February 18 Work Session the tax rate will be discussed and set for advertising.

Mr. Tederick explained the decision about the reorganization/resizing of staff that occurred last week and the recommendation of outside HR Legal Counsel on how to handle. Mayor Tewalt voiced opposition to privatizing Tourism due to not being successful in the past and not knowing how the Town's money would be spent.

Mr. Wilson confirmed that \$139,700 is the 3rd phase of the Compensation Study that was implemented by this Council two years ago to get some positions in line with the market.

HR Director Bush advised that she should be hearing about the Health Insurance Increases this week. Mr. Tederick advised that Council revisit the budget if the increase is higher than 3%.

Councilmen Gillispie and Meza both agreed to the succession planning as shown in the budget specifically as it relates to the Assistant Town Manger position added to the budget.

Councilman Thompson questioned whether the Chamber of Commerce was being considered to run Tourism. Mr. Tederick advised that it was Council's decision and encouraged discussion in upcoming work sessions.

Director of Energy Services explained the situation of the car charger in the Village Commons.

Vice Mayor Sealock voiced concern over pedestrian safety and lighting on Shenandoah Avenue. It was noted that the lighting was part of VDOT Revenue Sharing. Councilman Thompson voiced concern over much needed lighting on South Street. Councilman Meza and Holloway both supported Mr. Sealock's suggestion about placing lighting on Shenandoah Avenue.

Councilman Gillispie confirmed that the Prospect Bridge repairs were removed from the budget. Mr. Boyer advised that a plan is being worked on to fix the deck on the Stonewall Drive bridge.

Mr. Tederick encouraged Council to look through user fees and/or staff could look through and recommend to Council for their removal. He noted that new Procurement Policy was being drafted.

2. Open Discussion – None

Councilman Meza proposed a 10-15 minute break for Council to speak to the public. Mr. Wilson reminded Council that the next Work Session on February 18 will be for Council to set the tax rate for advertisement.

3. Closed Meeting – EDA Suit, Tap Fees Legal Issues and Personnel

Councilman Meza moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie that Town Council go into Closed Meeting for the following purposes: 1) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, specifically, the Town's lawsuit against the Economic Development Authority where such consultation or briefing in Open Meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of Town Council; "probable litigation" meaning litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which Town Council or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 7. of the Code of Virginia; 2) To consider the Town's legal position and strategy with respect to potential legal issues concerning Town water and sewer connections (tap) fees and related expenses, under Town Code Chapter 134, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.8. of the Code of Virginia and 3) Discussion and consideration of assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 1. of the Code of Virginia.

Councilman Cockrell moved, seconded by Councilman Meza that Council certify that to the best of each member's knowledge, as recognized by each Council member's affirmative vote, that only such public business matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the Closed Meeting by Council, and that the vote of each individual member of Council be taken by roll call and recorded and included in the minutes of the meeting of Town Council.

PRESENT: Mayor Tewalt, Councilman Meza, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Gillispie, Vice Mayor Sealock, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Cockrell, Interim Town Manager Tederick, Town Attorney Napier, Pro Tempore Clerk of Council Presley, Director of Finance Wilson, members of Town Staff, members of the public and members of the press.

Respectfully Submitted by Pro Tempore Clerk of Council Tina L. Presley