

Date: February 29, 2020
Meeting of: Locust City Council
Time: 8:00 am
Members Present: Mayor Stephen Huber, Mayor Pro Tem Larry Baucom, Rusty Efird, Mandy Watson, JC Burris, Michael Haigler, Harry Fletcher, and Roger Hypes
Members Absent:
Order: Mayor Stephen Huber

2020-2021 BUDGET RETREAT

Call to order at 8:01 am

M/S/A Council Members Roger Hypes and Harry Fletcher **(7-0)**
Motion to adopt agenda

City administrator Cesar Correa gave opening remarks and reviewed the agenda for the day. Each department head will recap the year and then present their requests for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

PD- Asst. Chief of Police Jeff Shew reviewed the year to date and thanked Council for all their efforts and support for the department. The department is currently fully staffed and morale is better than ever. Police Chief Steven Smith has made some requests for the upcoming budget year. He would like to upgrade the departments rifle arsenal (\$15,000). Requesting in car long gun and rifle mounts for the vehicles (\$4,172). More training and additional ammunition for officers. Continue SRO program and start crime prevention and school safety programs. Extra rifle and safe to store it in for school for better access for SRO in case of an emergency. Allow each officer \$500 uniform allowance to buy things as needed with approval. Want to go back to Dodge Chargers but are currently unavailable. Would like to continue rolling stock replacement with the purchase of a Dodge Durango, better price and equipped than Explorer.

P&Z – Director Scott Efird recapped 2019 with showing that the City collected almost \$598,000 in fees with 145 housing permits being issued. Best year yet. Current projects on the table include, the Elm St Hopper Community Development, Whispering Hills Phase 1&2, Meadowcreek Village Phase 3, South Beverly Commercial buildings, Town Center Smith Douglas Homes, Redbridge Adam Homes and Morgan Meadows Furr Builders. Future projects include the Scarboro property behind Bojangles and Taco Bell with connectivity to Town Center, Redbridge and South Central oil across from KFC.

Finance – Finance Director Stephania Morton gave overview of finances to date including investments. Explained revenue-neutral and what it means. Recommended to keep the tax rate the same at .36 cent for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

PW - Director Tim Flieger gave overview of what Public Works does and reviewed completed projects to date. 2020-2021 fiscal year requests include facility expansion for the public works building (\$250,000). To continue the street sign blade replacement program (\$10,000) and repair the parking lot on Lion's Club Drive (\$16,500). For the WW department requesting hoods for all pump stations, 2 this year and phase it in. Install mission wireless system at 200N and Creekview stations (\$11,000). Install isolation valves to improve vacuum stations (\$20,000). Equipment to find and repair leaks (\$10,000)

Parks – Director Emily Jones reviewed programs and events over the last year and their successes. Cost analysis for sports by sport. Requests for the new fiscal year include new community building chairs or at a minimum to recover the ones we currently have. L-screen and mounds for the ballfields. Office and facility maintenance supplies. Future needs include additional park facilities, land, rec center, museum and park office deck. For programs a new projector screen (\$900). Looking to add additional summer programs for you and adults. In athletics looking to expand to include adult athletic programs and some non-traditional sports.

11:00am Tour of City projects

1:00pm Budget Strategies

City administrator Cesar Correa gave revenue projections based on past year assessments and levies. 3 year SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) discussed as to where the City is and what growth can occur. Policy changes requested regarding late fees for sewer customers. Proposing a 10% late fee on monthly sewer charge itself instead of compounding charges on balance. Personnel handbook has been updated and reviewed by City Attorney and some training will take place on new policies. COLA and merit based salary increase changes proposed. Proposed for 2021-2020 fiscal year is to cap the increase at 4% yearly with the COLA following the market and the remainder being available for merit based on performance evaluations-70%, attendance-10%, initiative-10% and professional development-10%. The new GS 160-D land use law for NC was discussed and reviewed. It consolidates current city- and county-enabling statutes for development regulations (now in Chapters 153A and 160A) into a single, unified chapter. Proposed Capital projects were discussed and a 5 year implementation of projects was presented. How the City could see these projects come to fruition when funds are allocated each year.

Mayor Huber left at 2:00pm

M/S/A

Council Members Larry Baucom and Harry Fletcher

(7-0)

Motion to enter into executive session: Personnel at 2:30pm

Out of executive session at 3:00pm

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Roger Hypes

(7-0)

Motion to adjourn at 3:00 pm

Stephen Huber, Mayor

Amy Meachum, City Clerk