

Date: March 13, 2021
Meeting of: Locust City Council – Budget Retreat
Time: 8:00am
Members Present: Mayor Stephen Huber, Mayor Pro Tem Larry Baucom, Rusty Efird, Harry Fletcher, JC Burris, Michael Haigler and Roger Hypes
Council Member Mandy Watson attended via zoom

Members Absent:

Order: Mayor Stephen Huber

Pledge: Mayor Stephen Huber

Prayer: Mayor Stephen Huber

Call to order at 8:00am

Opening remarks from City Administrator Cesar Correa. Gave an overview of agenda and fiscal health of both the general fund and waste water fund. Purchase orders and budget amendments were reviewed.

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

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Larry Baucom **(7-0)**
Motion to approve budget amendments

M/S/A Council Members JC Burris and Harry Fletcher **(7-0)**
Motion to approve purchase orders

PD 2021-2022 budget presentation – Chief Jeff Shew gave an overview of how the last year has gone and the transitions that have had to be made with the passing of Chief Steven Smith. Chief Shew reviewed the promotions within the department and the success of the resource office position at Locust Elementary School. He also reviewed clearance records within the department and qualification accuracy. He explained the morale of the department and how the newly implemented recognition program has had a positive impact on the department. Chief Shew reviewed 2021-2022 goals for the department including a request for a non-bite K9 officer. Council would like more information before making a decision.

Break from 9:12am-9:27am

Budget Strategies – City Administrator Cesar Correa gave his presentation. He reviewed revenue projections. He is recommending keeping the revenue neutral tax rate the same at .36 cent per \$100 of assessed valuation. General fund and Waste Water fund revenues and expenditures were reviewed. 100% of the Powell Bill allocation will be for paving streets. 5 year capital improvement plans were reviewed for both funds. Discussion and review of the Ardsley drive extension from Town Center to Food Lion at 24/27. The request was proposed that a feasibility study needs to be completed at a cost of \$20,000. There is a company called Retail Strategies that has presented a recruitment plan that does an analysis of your city and demographics and provides retail prospects and mobile data. They also provide a virtual retail academy for staff and Council. The cost for this is \$10,000. The city is looking to share the cost with the Stanly County EDC. Possibly \$7,500 City expense and \$2,500 Stanly County EDC expense. The West Stanly sewer treatment plant extension is underway. City Hall is in need of painting. We have received a quote from the same company who painted the police department to paint the inside at a cost of \$19,395 and outside at a cost of \$22,930 and that includes the cost of the paint. The City will be receiving about \$950,000 from the Presidents relief plan. These funds have certain things that it can be used for that includes waste water investment infrastructure. Representative Wayne Sasser is also including in the states budget for the City to receive about a million dollars for the same.

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and Harry Fletcher (7-0)
Motion to approve feasibility study at a cost of \$20,000

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to approve Retail Strategies recruitment plan and cost

M/S/A Council Members JC Burriss and Michael Haigler (7-0)
Motion to approve painting of City Hall both inside and outside to be paid out of this budget year

Public Comment – N/A

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Michael Haigler (7-0)
Motion to enter into executive session: Personnel at 11:27am

Out of executive session at 12:00pm

Board Closing Comments: Great retreat

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Rusty Efird (7-0)
Motion to adjourn at 12:01pm

Stephen Huber, Mayor

Amy Meachum, City Clerk