

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: 06-08-2015

Mayor Bill Edmundson called the **Public Hearing** to order for the Proposed Budget for FY 2015-2016. The following Council members were present: Robert Watson and Jackie Grice. Also present were: Town Manger Gary Davis and Town Clerk Debra Beamon. The public present were Kimberly and Steve Harrell. Councilman Donnie Bass and Powell Dew, Jr. were absent due to work. Chief John Hunt and Councilman Ken Horne arrived a few minutes late.

Mr. Davis reviewed the FY 2015-2016 Proposed Budget at this time. The General Fund totals \$770,850.00 which is down \$7,250.00 from last year. Mr. Davis is proposing an increase of \$1.00 per month Garbage/Recycle fees for in-town and out-of-town customers. Also, he is proposing a \$.04 property tax rate increase this fiscal year in the General Fund. The overall budget includes a 2 ½ % COL pay increase for all employees, Mayor and Town Council. The General Fund remains the Town's weakest fund as pointed out by recent audits.

Next, Mr. Davis stated that the Water/Sewer Fund totals \$784,100. Which is up \$40,650.00 from last year. The reason for this increase is reallocation of salaries to help the General Fund and to get a better accounting of where the employees actually work. Also, the fund is up due to the increased cost of handling sludge produced by the WWTP, importantly this is the last year for the Sewer Rehab Loan Payment which will eliminate about a \$50,000.00 payment next year. Mr. Davis is proposing a modest increase of \$.50 for flat rate charges for in-town and out-of-town water customers which would bring the in-town flat rate up to \$22.00 and a \$.30 per 1,000 gallons of water which would bring it up to \$3.90 per 1,000 gallons. The flat rate for out-of-town customers rise to \$29.50 and \$.30 usage charge increase would bring the gallons charge to \$4.90 per 1,000 gallons of water. Mr. Davis is also proposing a \$.20 increase for the Southeast Water District resulting in an increase to \$135.00 flat rate for the first 50,000 gallons of water and \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons over 50,000. A proposed increase in the flat rate charge for sewer customers is \$1.25 per month which would bring the flat rate to \$31.00 and a \$.25 per 1,000 gallons of usage that would bring it up to \$5.10 per 1,000 gallons. Also, a proposed increase of \$.15 flat rate sewer charge for the Town of Saratoga will bring it up to \$31.00 and a \$.25 increase per 1,000 gallons that will bring the charge up to \$4.05 per 1,000 gallons up to the permit limit and \$5.35 per 1,000 gallons for all gallons above allotted capacity (60,000 gpd or 1,825,000 gallons per month).

Mr. Davis stated that the Electric Fund totals \$3,086,800 which is up \$152,500.00 from the previous year. This increase is mainly due to increased power cost and the sales tax increase. The transfer to the General Fund stays at \$250,000.00 as amended earlier in the year. Mr. Davis is not recommending any increases in the Electric Fund. There was no comment from the public present so, at this time, Mayor Edmundson declared the public hearing closed at 6:39 pm.

At 6:40 pm Mayor Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order with the following members present: Councilmen Robert Watson, Ken Horne and Councilwoman Jackie Grice. Councilmen Donnie Bass and Powell Dew, Jr. were absent due to work. Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Debra Beamon and Chief John Hunt were also present. The public present were Steve and Kimberly Harrell

A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:

Chief John Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Horne began the meeting with prayer.

B. Approval of Regular Minutes for May 11, 2015 and the Budget Workshop, May 26, 2015.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and the minutes for the Budget Workshop. With a second from Councilman Horne, all members present members voted in favor of the motion.

C. Financial Report:

Receipts: \$229,388.51 Disbursements: \$195,553.75 Difference \$33,834.76

MMB: Councilman Watson made a motion, with a second by Councilwoman Grice, to approve the Financial Report. All other Council members voted in favor of the motion.

D. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$21,068.08

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. With a second by Councilman Watson, all other Council members voted favorably.

E. Public Present: N/A

F. Police Report: At this time, Chief Hunt presented the police report. (see attachment) Chief Hunt presented a map from the Wilson County Tax Office which shows that neither property owner on either side of the ditch that runs between Greenwood Ave. and Paschall Ave. actually own any of the ditch. There has been some dispute as to who is responsible for keeping the ditch clean on their side of the property. According to the map, there is a PID# for the ditch but it has no designated owner listed. (see attachment) Mr. Davis is going to investigate the matter further and look at the deeds. In the meantime, Chief Hunt is going to check into getting inmates in to clean the ditch. Chief Hunt also stated that he is trying to contact the owner of the house at 200 E. Julian Ave. about the pile of debris where they tore down a barn. The lot is currently an eyesore.

The Mayor asked Chief Hunt if he had a plan in place for parking and electric supply for vendors for the Town festival. Chief Hunt stated that he is working on the parking situation and will present a plan at the July meeting. He has already talked with Mr. Davis about the electric supply and Mr. Davis informed Council that he has already given the Electrical Superintendent the go ahead to order supplies needed and take care of this need.

G. Next on the agenda was a report from the Parks & Recreation Committee. Mayor Edmundson reported that the Park Dedication was a big success. He especially thanked Councilman Dew for his presence and support at the dedication.

H. At this time, Mr. Davis presented the overtime report for May 2015. (see attachment) The overtime is down from May 2014.

Next, Mr. Davis presented the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution for approval. After reviewing the resolution, Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all members present voting favorably.

The next item Mr. Davis presented was the Audit Contract with Carr, Riggs, & Ingram for the FY 2014-2015 Audit for \$15,295.00. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the contract with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram for \$15, 295.00 for the FY 2014-2015 Audit. Councilman Watson seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

A request was presented by Mr. Davis by Keith Head to purchase the walkway space next to his family's (Lot # D10 Bonnie Yelverton) lot in the Stantonsburg Cemetery. After a brief discussion, Councilman Horne made a motion to grant the request by Mr. Head. Councilman Watson seconded the motion with all other members present voting in favor of the motion.

Next, Mr. Davis presented Budget Amendment #3 for approval. (see attachment) The amendment will add \$27,000.00 to the W/S Fund to cover the cost for well refurbishment for Well #1, sludge removal for WWTP and permit charges for collection system permits for the past 3 years due to a glitch in the State's billing system. Councilman Watson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #3. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other members present voting in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented the proposed Budget Ordinance for FY 2015-2016 for approval.

General Fund: \$770,850.

W/S Fund: \$784,100.

Electric Fund: \$3,086,800.00

Total FY 2015-2016 Budget: \$4,641,750.00

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the FY 2015-2016 Budget as presented.

Councilman Horne seconded, with all other members present voting in favor of the motion

I. Councilman Horne: Mr. Horne inquired about setbacks for carports and he also expressed appreciation to the Parks & Rec committee for a job well done establishing the Town Park.

J. Councilman Watson: Mr. Watson expressed the need for a closed session before adjournment of the meeting.

K. Councilman Bass: Absent

L. Councilman Dew: Absent

M. Councilwoman Grice: Mrs. Grice asked Mr. Davis about the progress on the drainage problem near the Council property on N. Travis. St. Mr. Davis informed the Council that the drainage pipe has been installed. He stated that there are some grading issues that will be the property owner's responsibility.

O. Mayor Edmundson: Mr. Edmundson requested that the park ordinance, list of fees for rental of the shelters, and operating hours be posted at the park as soon as possible. The Mayor also inquired about the condemnations and parking lot property for the park. Mr. Davis informed the Council that condemnation hearings were held on June 4, 2015. The owner of the property located at 204 N. Main St. was present and informed the Wilson County Inspector that her intentions are to repair the house and make it livable. The inspector will likely grant 90 days to complete the renovations or demolish the house. He stated that he would likely issue a 30 order for the trailer at 309 N. Travis St. and the house located at 510 S. Main St. to be demolished. The attorney requested for Wilson County to go ahead with their proceedings for the vacant lot for the park parking lot and let us piggyback on that proceedings but the County denied our request. Our attorney suggested that we go ahead with proceedings on our own because the County's paperwork is messy to the point that we would be better off on our own.

At this time, Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Councilman Watson seconded the motion with all members present voting favorably.

After going back into regular session, Councilman Watson made a motion to adjourn. With a second from Councilman Horne, all members present voted favorably. Adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Beamon, Finance Officer/Town Clerk

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

