

WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Budget Work Session on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via "Zoom" with Council members participating remotely due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor's Executive Order on social distancing:

PRESENT: Council Members: Bobby Henderson, Mayor
Lana Williams, Vice Mayor
Bruce Allen, Council member
Terry Short, Jr., Council member
Sam Hostetter, Council member

City Staff: Michael Hamp, City Manager
James Shaw, Deputy City Manager
Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council
Cameron McCormick, Finance Director
Alisa King, Deputy Finance Director

ABSENT: None

The City Manager reviewed the agenda for the budget work session, including Council Retreat priorities, debt review, 2021 capital improvement update, reserve update, 2022 CIP preview, and next steps. He stated that it will be a challenging year financially and staff will likely focus on one element of the tier one goals being employee compensation, the west end fire station, and Sunset Park construction.

The Finance Director reviewed the General Fund outstanding debt broken out by amount (\$37,234,973) and yearly debt service (\$3,555,453), and the Capital Improvement Program budgets and funding sources.

Council member Allen confirmed that the information presented illustrates the budget balanced at a \$.90 tax rate equating to a \$.07 tax rate increase. As with past budgets, he and Vice Mayor Williams requested staff prepare a proposed budget based on the current tax rate for comparison purposes that will show what projects would have to be altered or eliminated to keep the current tax rate. The City Manager noted that to balance a budget at the current tax rate, appreciable reductions would be required in service levels and organizational function. Council member Short stated the importance of the \$.90 tax rate, emphasizing the importance of the Council Retreat priorities not possible with the \$.83 tax rate.

The Deputy City Manager reviewed the General Fund unrestricted fund balances by classification and the Capital Investment Program. Council member Short asked about the \$1.4 million in unassigned fund balance, and he was told it is the surplus of revenue over expenditure for fiscal year 2020. Staff may suggest that a portion of the \$1.4 million be allocated to capital projects and a portion appropriated to the operating budget to pay for capital items required in the operating budget.

Mr. Shaw noted that the budget is still a work in progress with the City Manager's budget presentation scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021.

Budget Work Session
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Adopted April 12, 2021

The City Manager reviewed the next steps:

- April 5, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. – City Manager’s Budget Presentation.
- April 12, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. – Equalized Tax Rate Public Hearing (Regular Business Meeting).
- April 26, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. – Public Hearings and Introduction of all necessary ordinances.

The City Manager asked that Council focus on outcomes rather than means; if there is a specific real estate tax rate in mind, to state it and allow staff to develop a recommendation. Council asked for a copy of the slide presentation from tonight’s meeting.

Council member Hostetter was told that the School will present their recommended budget to Council by the end of March. Staff will note receipt of their budget at the April meeting and the Superintendent will schedule a time to present the budget to the Council.

With no further items to discuss, the work session was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

Bobby Henderson, Mayor



Waynesboro
VIRGINIA

Council Budget Work Session

March 17, 2021



Agenda

- Council Retreat Priorities
- Debt Review
- 2021 CIP Update
- Reserve Update
- 2022 CIP Preview
- Next Steps



