

MINUTES

BUDGET WORK SESSION #2

APRIL 26, 2023

5:00 P.M. CORBIN STUDIO & GALLERY

The Mayor and City Council held a special meeting for the purpose of a Budget Work Session on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

Present

Mayor Darlene Taylor
Councilman Eric Banks
Councilwoman Charlotte Scott
Councilman Casey Goldsborough
Councilwoman LaVerne Johnson
Joyce L. Morgan Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Richard Crumbacker; Janet Johnson, IT

Absent – Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order noting that this was a Budget Works Session. She noted at the last session, the Constant Yield was reviewed. This time we will be reviewing the previous and projected budget. She also noted that on May 10th, there will be a public hearing concerning the Constant Yield and the adoption of the tax rate.

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the revenue sources and the year end estimates. She noted that revenue concerns are garbage collection which needs to increase to \$14.37 and the sewer clean out fee. Mayor Taylor noted that we also need the landfill fee for debris.

Mrs. Morgan noted that we can set the tax rate at the Constant Yield P.H. or when the budget is adopted for first reader.

She noted that grants awarded will be included in revenue this year.

Mrs. Morgan noted that new expenses include travel expenses for the Mayor and Council, \$10K for a Financial Assistant, help for inspections, Economic Marketing, legislative aide and a Business Director.

She noted that the WWTP had received a fine from MDE of \$30K, upgrade for water meter software, a reduction in the licensing contract to 6 months.

Mayor Taylor reviewed the LEOPS Pension information. She also noted an increase to \$10K for EDC.

Mayor Taylor discussed the Vacation Buyout due to overage of vacation hours. Mrs. Morgan noted that this occurred due to staffing shortages. She noted that the buy out would not be at \$100 percent of wage rate, or there would be a date set to use vacation to the permitted accrued amount allowed to be carried over. She noted that this is recorded as a liability on the City.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to new hires for public works. Mayor advised yes.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the sewer fine. Mr. Illuminati noted that it occurred in the last 12-18 months. He noted there is a meeting with MDE and Jason next week.

With no further business for discussion, Councilman Banks made a motion to adjourn the special meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan,
Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Sec.