

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council for the purpose of conducting a budget work session was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Mac Baldwin, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Lafabian Marshall; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Richard Crumbacker; and Jason Loar.

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Morgan advised that she would be presenting the draft budget for 2022-2023 and it would also be presented in the regular meeting for first reader. She also noted that the Heron Way Front Footage had been reduced to the regular rate. She advised that there will be no water and sewer increase this year.

She noted that the garbage rate is currently \$12 per household but is falling short of the \$13.95 we are charged by Seagull and subtracted from the general fund. Mayor Dize noted that this amount is \$20K .

Councilman Atkins noted that it is not fair to ask residents who don't get trash collection to subsidize the difference. Councilwoman Scott advised that she agrees with increasing the fee \$2.00.

Council Vice President Banks inquired if the budget would balance with the \$12 charge. Mrs. Morgan advised that it would, but the General Fund bears the overage. She advised that the new hire has taken over some of the jobs that needed to be done and has been thrown into public works.

Council Vice President Banks commented that there is debris on the streets after a rain and streets haven't been swept for a long time.

Mrs. Morgan advised that there are two fulltime and one part time public works employees. She noted that Mr. Wunder met with employees and advised them that they would be cross training and water/sewer personnel as well. Council Vice President Banks inquired the capacity of public works years ago. Mrs. Morgan advised that there were 8 people, up and down. She advised that mowing has been contracted out to relieve that job. She noted that Mr. Lord had been working to train Mr. Trejo on the sweeper, but Mr. Trejo has not been able to finish the training.

Council Vice President Banks advised that we need two or three more people in public works and inquired if the budget reflects their inclusion. Mrs. Morgan advised that it does not. Council Vice

President Banks inquired where the money for salaries went when people left their jobs. Mayor Dize advised that it went into pay increases and to paying the contractor.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired if the PW Foreman's salary is included in the budget. Mrs. Morgan advised that it was not. She advised speaking to Mr. Wunder and noted that she feels he will be moving forward in the inspection job.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he has seen public works go from five to two people and that is not enough to do the work.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that he would like to see the \$2.00 increase up to \$13.95 for garbage and wants the \$20,000 for a foreman and hire a part time street sweeper. Mrs. Morgan noted that sweeping the streets was always routine, but we fell out of it. She noted that the City doesn't contract the mowing of the airport out; it is done by the City.

Councilwoman Scott commented that there are a lot of vacancies in the City and inquired as to how many were budgeted for. Mrs. Morgan advised that we have budgeted for an administrative assistant to work with Mr. Wunder and to act as a back-up in the water/sewer/tax collections office. She advised that Public Utilities is up to staff with four people. She advised that there were no applicants for the public works foreman job.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to having a discussion about hiring a city manager and had asked for a job description but was advised by the Mayor that there is no money in the budget. She commented that there will be \$20K in garbage and \$11K in economic development and feels we need a city manager for growth.

Council Vice President Banks inquired about the \$11K in Economic Development. Mrs. Morgan advised that of the \$11K, \$6K goes to EDC and the other \$5K goes to the grant writer side. Council Vice President Banks commented that we need to get a bigger bang for the buck and was not for the EDC increase. He inquired if the money went to the grant writer salary. Mrs. Morgan advised that it went for travel and meetings. Councilwoman Scott advised that she understands that this is necessary for outreach and training.

Mrs. Morgan advised that she does not have the Garbage Increase Ordinance prepared for this meeting and advised that she would be reviewing the old ordinance for modification.

With no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary