

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
FISCAL YEAR 2012
BUDGET WORK SESSION NO.2
MAY 2, 2011**

DRAFT

The May 2, 2011 Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Work Session No. 2 meeting of the Rocky Mount Town Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Mount Municipal Building located at 345 Donald Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia at 4:00 p.m. with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding. The following members of Council were present:

Council Members Bobby M. Cundiff, Jerry W. Greer, Sr., P. Ann Love, Robert L. Moyer, and Robert W. Strickler and Vic Mayor Gregory B. Walker

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Angle.

For the record, the following were present: All members of Town Council as noted, Town Manager C. James Ervin, Assistant Town Manager/Community Development Director Matthew C. Hankins, Finance Director Linda Woody, Chief of Police David Cundiff, Assistant Chief of Police Roger Smith, Public Works Director Cecil Mason, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Timothy Burton, Water Plant Superintendent Bob Deitrich, Fire Chief Charlie Robertson, Accounting Technician Amy Gordon, and Town Clerk Patricia H. Keatts.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Prior to the meeting, Council had received the agenda for review and consideration of approval.

The Town Manager requested that the agenda be amended to include Council's review and consideration of donating to the Franklin County High School archery team.

- Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walker to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Council Member Moyer and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF DONATION TO FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ARCHERY TEAM

There was discussion regarding whether or not for the Town to make a donation to the Franklin County High School archery team, who had won a spot in the national competition, with the donation helping with the teams' travel, with donation not being a part of charitable donations to agencies, with Council deciding not to make a donation.

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Prior to the meeting, Council had received a copy of the draft Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for review.

The Finance Director stated that new items were listed under the following categories:

Utility Fund: new rate structure proposed as listed in "Supporting Information". The Finance Director confirmed that the proposed new rates would bring in approximately \$250,000 in annual revenue. The Town Manager explained to Council how the meals tax shows up and how funds are moved into the General Fund, but that the funds can be transferred however Council wants it to be. The Finance Director also confirmed to Vice Mayor Walker that if the proposed rate increase is not implemented, Council will have to come up with approximately \$250,000 to balance the budget.

Water Systems Operations: new items are the Scuffing Hill water tank altitude valve and the Grassy Hill water pump station rebuild. The Water Plant Superintendent explained to Council why those two items were needed. The Finance Director explained the increase in the contractual services. There was also discussion regarding that the new system of meter reading did not show any increased accountability, and the possible need of discontinuing the way the meters are read. There was much discussion regarding the Water Plant's capital improvement items needed, with the Water Plant Superintendent explaining each one. It was the consensus of Council that the Water Plant Superintendent submit a prioritized list of each item for their review and consideration during Budget Work Session No. 3.

Sewage Systems Operations: new item is machinery and equipment for sewer line; and upgrading of UV system.

Non-departmental (Utility Billing): Confirmed bonuses are included in this item. Discussed how the utility fund is billed.

Capital Projects Fund: Finance Director confirmed that the Planning Commission will have their public hearing regarding the Capital Improvement Plan on May 3rd.

The Finance Director presented to Council items they wanted to discuss further after meeting on April 18, 2011, being:

Grave Openings: The Public Works Director suggested that Council go to \$750 when using the backhoe to open graves, and to go to \$1,000 for hand dug graves.

Medical & Dental Insurance: Discussed medical and dental insurance coverage for Council members.

○ Motion was made by Council Member Greer to not pay any cost for dependants after June 30, 2012, and that the cost would be for employee only, with employee only

coming into effect by Fiscal Year 2012, and no additional dependants can be signed up at the Town's cost before that date, with motion on the floor being seconded by Vice Mayor Walker. Council Member Cundiff questioned that if he is on the losing side, does this prevent him from bringing this matter up again. The Mayor indicated that only the prevailing side can bring this matter back up. There being no further discussion, the Mayor called for a roll vote. Voting in favor of the motion on the floor were Vice Mayor Walker and Council Members Greer, Strickler and Love. Voting in opposition to the motion on the floor were Council Members Cundiff and Moyer. Let the record show that the motion on the floor passed four to two.

Motor Vehicle for Use by Town Manager, Town Council and Town staff: It was the consensus of Council to push this item back a year and not purchase the vehicle for Fiscal Year 2012.

Sidewalks: Discussed where sidewalks would be needed, with the Mayor requesting that the Streets, Sidewalks & Sanitation Committee look into this matter. The Town Manager did confirm that the Town can participate in revenue sharing with the Virginia Department of Transportation for sidewalks, which would double the Town's money, further explaining also that if it cannot be matched, it cannot be spent.

Municipal Building Maintenance: Discussed several of options of the cleaning of Town buildings: (1) hiring someone (such as an individual or Town employee) full time for cleaning of Town buildings, and then have the Public Works Director use them for his department the rest of the time. (2) Use of Franklin County Jail trustees, which would need someone on site supervising them (the County uses one of their employees for this). It was the consensus of Council for Town staff to look into these two options and bring back before Council.

Plant Maintenance for Municipal Building: Consensus of Council to cease the plant maintenance and to either replace them with artificial flowers, or have a few Town staff members with green thumbs to see if they can keep them alive.

Parks Infrastructure (specifically, Pigg River Dam removal): Town Manager confirmed to Council that the Town has applied for the permit and has tentatively been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers, with the Town waiting to get the green light. The Town Manager stated the following: the Town is not bound by anything at this time but for the application; and the permit itself will probably have a year and if not enacted upon, the permit would expire. There was discussion about the need to go through with the removal of the dam due to the potential for loss of life.

Blighted Structures: The Assistant Town Manager confirmed to Council that it is his intent for the Town not to get into the real estate business, but to be able to demolish those properties that are considered blighted and an endangerment to their community, getting rid of dangerous buildings.

Contributions to Outside Agencies: The Finance Director confirmed that those funds that were set aside for Rising Opportunities (no longer in existence) have been distributed evenly among those agencies set aside for funding from the Town. There was discussion that the Town citizens are already giving to agencies through their tax dollars to Franklin County, as the County funds agencies also.

- Motion was made by Council Member Cundiff to pay the same amount in Fiscal Year 2011 for the same entity funded at the same level, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Greer. Those voting in favor of the motion on the floor were Vice Mayor Walker and Council Members Greer, Cundiff, Love and Strickler. Voting in opposition to the motion on the floor was Council Member Moyer. Let the record show that the motion passed five to one.

SCHEDULING OF BUDGET WORK SESSION NO. 3

Council set the Budget Work Session No. 3 for May 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn.

At 6:28 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Greer to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Love and carried unanimously.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia H. Keatts/Town Clerk

/phk