

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET
AND
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 1, 2017**

The May 1, 2017 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan public hearing of the Rocky Mount Town Council (hereafter referred to as "Council") was held in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Mount Municipal Building located at 345 Donald Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia, at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding.

The following members of Council were present:

- Mayor Steven C. Angle
- Vice Mayor Gregory B. Walker
- Bobby M. Cundiff
- Mark H. Newbill
- Robert L. Moyer
- Jon W. Snead
- Billie W. Stockton

The following staff members were also present:

- Rebecca Dillon, Executive Administrative Assistant
- C. James Ervin, Town Manager
- Matt Hankins, Assistant Town Manager
- Linda Woody, Finance Director
- Amy D. Gordon, Assistant Finance Director

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Steven C. Angle.

The Mayor questioned why there were budget discussions on the agenda. Mr. Ervin stated that Council Member Cundiff had asked to discuss the budget more. The Mayor did not see the need for further discussions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Prior to the meeting, Council had received the agenda for review and consideration of approval. Let the record show that Council Member Moyer asked to amend the agenda to add a closed session under the sited code 2.2.3711(A)(1).

Motion: To approve an amended agenda to include a closed session under the sited code 2.2-3711(A)(1).

Motion By: Council Member Cundiff

Second: Vice Mayor Walker

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Newbill, Moyer, Snead, Stockton, Walker

Nays: None

Action: Approved an amended agenda by a unanimous vote

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Received by Council in their packet for the Public Hearing were draft minutes for review and consideration of approval:

- April 17, 2017
- May 1, 2017

Motion: To approve the draft minutes

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Second: Council Member Snead

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Newbill, Moyer, Snead, Stockton, Walker

Nays: None

Action: The draft minutes were unanimously approved

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Angle recessed the meeting to go into public hearing.

- A. Public hearing on proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and FY 18-22 CIP
(Note: No consideration of motions needed until May 8, 2017 Regular Council meeting.)
- B. Public hearing on proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Rates.
(Note: No consideration of motion needed until May 8, 2017 Regular Council meeting.)

At this time, the Mayor stated that no one had signed in to speak regarding the two budget items and then the Mayor opened the floor for each item to allow for members of the public to speak but no one came forward to do so. The budget must sit for one week and then will be brought up at the next Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Budget Discussions

As discussion began on the FY2018 budget the refuse truck became the first topic. A one armed alternate would be approximately \$394,000 and a traditional refuse truck would be approximately \$150,000. The decision of the Refuse Truck was given to the Public Utilities

Committee and the committee recommended not going with the one armed bandit. The consensus of Council was also not to go with the one arm bandit refuse truck. A flipper to go on the existing truck could be bought for \$25,000 and the company could install. Mr. Hankins spoke on the refuse truck and stated that new trash cans would have to be purchased as well as the flipper could not be used with the current cans. Mr. Moyer stated that the Town would likely have over \$100,000 in the price to go with the new trash system. Council Member Snead stated that he would like to see the Town decide on the rear loader truck and that Council could not ask the citizens to spend that much money. Council Member Moyer stated that he could not support the one arm bandit. Mr. Hankins stated that he would like to see the Town bid on a truck soon as it could be as little as a 6 week wait to get the new truck rather than a 6 month wait. The budget contains a traditional refuse truck. The current refuse truck will be the Town's back up refuse truck.

Regarding the Harvester Performance Center:

Council Member Cundiff passed out a sheet on the Harvester that had \$350,000 in the budget for expenses plus 1 new position of \$40,000 to \$50,000 for the Harvester. The sheet was information that Council Member Cundiff had obtained from the Finance Department regarding the Harvester. Council Member Cundiff stated that he would like Council to review the sheet as the information showed the Harvester owing to the Town. The Mayor asked what was meant by "owing to the Town". Mr. Ervin spoke on the Harvester by saying that the FY2018 budget was largely as a whole as it was before and that the Harvester is a continued investment in the Town. Mr. Ervin stated that the Harvester was the best economic investment that the Town has made to date. Mr. Ervin also stated that he would like Council to allow Virginia Tech an opportunity to explain the economic impact that the Harvester is having. Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead as well as Vice Mayor Walker stated that they would also like for Virginia Tech to come and give the Town information. It was the consensus of Council then for Dr. Provost to speak to Council not only about the Harvester but also about water and sewer and the garbage collection as well.

The Mayor stated that the Town does show a profit regarding the Harvester. Mr. Hankins stated the income was of approximately 1.2 million dollars in ticket sales and 1.4 million dollars in total sales. The Mayor stated that for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 that equaled 3.9 million dollars in meals tax revenue. The net impact of the investment was greater than the expenses. Council Member Cundiff stated that there were times when bills came in to be paid and there was no explanation on them as to what they were for regarding the Harvester. Mr. Hankins stated that currently the numbers of the information Council Member Cundiff gave out did not include the \$500,000 due to the Town from the repayment of the tax credits from the Harvester.

Regarding the salary increases:

Council Member Moyer stated that he had an inquiry from a citizen on the street as to why the Town was giving a 3.5% raise to the Town's employees as the elderly had not had an increase.

The citizen indicated to Council Member Moyer that 3.5% was too much increase. Council Member Moyer stated he agreed. The Mayor asked why? Council Member Moyer stated that he had just explained why. The Mayor stated that if the increase did not pass in the budget this year, the employees could be taking home less pay than they were currently. Mr. Ervin shared that Condrey came approximately 10 years ago and did a study that the average increase then was 14% with inflation. Council Member Snead stated that he could support a 2.5 % increase. Mr. Ervin stated that a 1% payroll raise was \$39,000 and it was the at the cost of benefits to provide the employees. If the trend of medical insurance increases another year, likely the Town may look at stipends. Council Member Cundiff stated that Council absorbing the \$147,000 is like giving a 7% raise when combined with the proposed 3.5%. Council Member Stockton stated that he would like to see the \$39,000 be spent on a police vehicle. Mr. Ervin stated he would like to see the money put in the bank into Fund Balance or Council could spend it on a vehicle for the Police Department. Vice Mayor Walker stated that the 2.5% was represented as a step merit. Mr. Ervin stated that if Council cut into the 2.5%, the employees would be taking home negative pay. Vice Mayor Walker stated then that he could not support anything less than a 2.5% increase. Council Members Newbill, Stockton and Snead agreed. It was the consensus of Council to eliminate the 1% cola and leave in the 2.5% merit.

Regarding Veterans' Park:

Council Member Newbill asked the Mayor what was the status of the work being done on Veterans' Park. Mr. Hankins stated that Paul Shively was finished and the work was complete except for the grass. Council Member Moyer stated that he was very dissatisfied with the job that the contractors did and the \$40,000 that Council had voted to spend there. Mr. Hankins stated that the work was done to the weight that it could be to support the weight of the culverts. Mr. Hankins further stated that the engineers relayed to him that the concrete boxes would not hold any more than currently filled. Mr. Ervin stated that the engineers will not exceed a 60% load rating or it would violate the warranty on the work done regarding the concrete box. Council Member Newbill asked if there were any other engineering projects on the horizon for Council as he would like to be sure that they do not turn out the way the Veterans' Park had. Mr. Ervin stated that more dirt could be added at Veterans' Park but the Town must wait until after the warranty period. Mr. Hankins stated that the Floyd, Franklin intersection was one project the Town has coming up and another would be Bernard Road flooding but that the same engineer would not be used.

CLOSED MEETING AND ACTION

Enter Closed Meeting

Motion: To go into closed session under the Virginia Code Section cited below

Time: 7:55 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

Section 2.2-3711.A.1 – Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body.

Motion By: Council Member Moyer

Second: Council Member Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Moyer, Snead, Stockton, Walker, Newbill

Nays: None

Action: To go into a closed meeting

Certificate of Closed Meeting Discussion:

Council certified unanimously that nothing was discussed in the closed meeting other than what was stated in the motion to enter the closed meeting. No action was taken during the closed meeting.

Whereas, the Rocky Mount Town Council has convened a closed meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, requires certification by this Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Rocky Mount Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each members' knowledge: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the public body.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn meeting

Time: 8:11 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Moyer

Second: Vice Mayor Walker

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Moyer, Newbill, Snead, Stockton, Walker

Nays: None

Action: Adjourned by a unanimous vote

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk