

The Smithfield Town Council reconvened its May 4, 2021 meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Fire Station Training Room, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

Councilmen Present:

John Dunn, Mayor Pro-Tem
Marlon Lee, District 1
David Stevens, District 2
Dr. David Barbour, District 4
Stephen Rabil, At-Large
Roger Wood, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Travis Scott, District 3

Administrative Staff Present

Michael Scott, Town Manager
John Blanton, Fire Chief
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Superintendent
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director
Tim Kerigan, Human Resources/PIO
Shannan Parrish, Town Clerk
R. Keith Powell, Chief of Police
Greg Siler, Finance Director
Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Reconvene: May 4th Meeting

Mayor Moore reconvened the meeting at 6:30 pm

1. General Fund

a. Public Works

i. Powell Bill

Public Works Superintendent Lawrence Davis explained the Powell Bill budget was essentially status quo from last year.

Town Manager Michael Scott informed the Council that last year the State decreased the amount of Powell Bill Funds. He was unsure if funds would be restored to their previous level in the coming fiscal year.

Councilman Scott stated he would like to increase funding so more streets could be resurfaced.

Councilman Barbour requested that speed humps be installed on Whitley Drive as a test case for thru roads that lead to connector roads. The Town Manager responded that some communities have a traffic committee comprised of staff and citizens to evaluate traffic concerns throughout the Town.

ii. Sanitation

Public Works Superintendent Lawrence Davis highlighted the Sanitation Department's FY 2021-2022 budget which included the following:

- Salaries – 2 new Equipment Operators were being proposed in this budget. The Town Manager explained two employees from the Appearance Division were being utilized primarily in the Sanitation Department. Hiring 2 equipment operators would allow the Appearance Division employees to return to their Appearance duties. He further explained that in order to fund these positions, rates would have to increase. The proposed increase would be \$1.00 to all the solid waste collection fees. Currently, fees are not covering the operating cost of the sanitation department. Even with the proposed fee increase, it still would not cover the total operational budget of the department. Sanitation rates have not increased since FY 2010-2011 which was caused by Johnston County increasing its tipping fees.
- Recycling Center Hours of Operation - Superintendent Lawrence Davis informed the Council that there was an increase in debris being dropped off at the recycling center, often times by people who do not reside in Smithfield. He suggested changing the hours of operation to Saturday, when it can be monitored by a staff member.
- South Smithfield alleyway trash collection – Town Manager Michael Scott informed the Town Council that staff has temporarily suspended trash collection from the alleyway. Residents in the area are now being asked to take their trash receptacles to the street like other residents, unless they opt for backyard pick up. He explained it was becoming too hazardous for employees and damaging the equipment. The alleyway was in need of major repairs to make it safe for travel. Since it was not a Town maintained street, Powell Bill funds cannot be used to repair the alleyway. It was suggested that trash collection from alleyways be permanently cancelled.

It was the consensus of Council to modify the hours of operation for the recycling center to Saturday. It was also the consensus of Council to cancel all alleyway trash collection.

- Equipment Maintenance and Repair – 39% increase in this line due to additional tarping system for the knuckleboom.

- Vehicle Supplies/ Maintenance – 33% increase in this line due to the need to outsource the diesel mechanic work that potentially would be needed.
Councilman Wood questioned if there was an opportunity for training the garage mechanic on how to repair diesel engines. Mr. Davis responded there would be more educational opportunities for everyone in Public Works. Councilman Wood expressed concerns on the proposed hiring of a part-time garage mechanic and suggested the Council consider hiring another full-time mechanic.
- Supplies/Operation – 24% increase in this line due to the increased cost of roll out containers.
- Capital Outlay
 - Replacement of a 14-year-old knuckleboom truck
 - Replacement of roll out containers.
Superintendent Lawrence Davis explained that vehicles will be placed on a 5-year replacement plan. Vehicles being replaced would be surplus.

b. Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Director Gary Johnson highlighted the Parks and Recreation's FY 2021-2022 budget which included the following:

- Utilities – 19% increase in this line due to increase in water at the splash pad.
- Recreation Special Projects - \$11,000 increase in this line due to continuing the Veteran's Day Celebration
- Capital Outlay
 - 2 Pick-Up trucks to replace a 2003 model and a 2006 model
 - Amphitheater stage upgrades
 - Park and recreation Master Plan

Councilman Barbour questioned the amphitheater repairs. Mr. Johnson responded the stage and drainage would be repaired. Councilman Barbour further stated the amphitheater was important to the downtown and should be the highest priority.

Councilman Barbour stated he noticed the following park needs: the Gertrude B. Johnson Park needed a fence, a sign should be placed on the Highway 210 new park site, an electronic sign at the SRAC was needed, the corner of Hospital Road and Brightleaf Boulevard would be a great location for a small park, Bob Wallace Kiddie Park and the Boat ramp parking lot both needed to be paved and WIFI was needed in the area.

Councilman Lee stated there were drainage issues at Smith Collins Park that still needed to be addressed. He further stated that the Splash Pad was too small.

Town Manager Michael Scott informed the Council that staff estimated \$27,000 would be needed to repair the riverfront breach. He stated this could be done now using contingency funds.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to authorize the Town Manager to use contingency funds in the amount not to exceed \$30,000 to repair the riverfront. Councilman Barbour, Councilman Wood, Mayor Pro-Tem Dunn, Councilman Stevens, and Councilman Rabil voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Lee voted against the motion. Motion passed 5 to 1.

c. Aquatics

Parks and Recreation Director Gary Johnson informed the Council that the Aquatics FY 2021-2022 budget remained status quo from the previous year. He reviewed the proposed capital outlay needs.

- Capital Outlay
 - Replacement of the pool timing system
 - Replacement of the pool deck drain cover replacement
 - ½ pool chemical control feeder. The other half of the cost will be paid by Johnston County Schools
 - WIFI access points

d. Sarah Yard Community Center (SYCC)

Parks and Recreation Director Gary Johnson informed the Council that the SYCC FY 2021-2022 budget remained status quo from the previous year. He reviewed the proposed capital outlay needs.

- Capital Outlay
 - Interior improvements to the building

Nonprofit Request

Town Manager Michael Scott informed the members of the Council that he received a request from Shiloh Church to assist with roof repairs. He explained to the Council that this request like

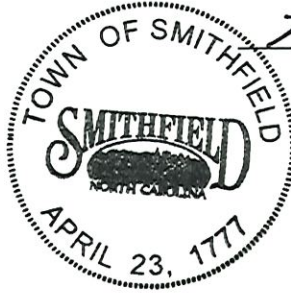
the Chamber's request was not a legal expense for Town to make. He stated he would not be including funding for either organization in the proposed budget.

Recess

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood to recess the meeting to Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6:30 pm. The meeting recessed at approximately 8:52 pm.

ATTEST:


Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk




M. Andy Moore, Mayor

