

Mayor
Ricky Waring

Council Members:
Bob Jackson
Russ Touchberry
Aaron Brown
Terry Jenkins
Kima Garten-Schmidt
William McIntosh



Town Administrator
Lisa Wallace

Town Clerk
Beth Messervy

Town Attorney
G.W. Parker

TOWN of SUMMERVILLE

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING BUDGET RETREAT MINUTES April 21-22, 2022

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022:

ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Ricky Waring, Councilmembers Aaron Brown, Russ Touchberry, Bill McIntosh, Bob Jackson and Terry Jenkins. Councilmember Kima Garten-Schmidt was absent. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Lisa Wallace, Town Attorney GW Parker, and Town Clerk Beth Messervy. A quorum was met. Public and press were duly notified. The meeting took place at the Cambria Hotel at 405 Sigma Drive, Summerville, SC 29483.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Waring called the meeting to order at 8:45am on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Finance Director Rhonda Moore gave an overview of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. She reviewed the revenue estimates and then let each Department Head present their individual budgets to Council. Council adjourned for lunch at 12:00pm.

Council reconvened at 1:00pm, and the remainder of the Department Heads' presentations were covered. Ms. Moore and certain Department Heads then presented their capital expenditure requests. Proposed fee schedules for Parks and Recreation, Planning and Zoning, Engineering, and Building / Inspections were also presented to Council.

EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Chris Grant, HR Manager, discussed why employee performance reviews are needed, as well as what to ask, what not to ask, and the pros and cons of linking the reviews to compensation rewards. He stated that the rating systems have to be clear and that expectations need to be based in reality.

BENEFITS / HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Grant stated that he is projecting a 6% increase in health insurance costs in the next year. He then stated that there have been requests for the employee retirement health insurance program to be brought back into play with some restrictions. Some discussion followed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:34pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022:

ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Ricky Waring, Councilmembers Aaron Brown, Russ Touchberry, Bill McIntosh, Kima Garten-Schmidt, Bob Jackson and Terry Jenkins. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Lisa Wallace, Town Attorney GW Parker, and Town Clerk Beth Messervy. A quorum was met. Public and press were duly notified. The meeting took place at the Cambria Hotel at 405 Sigma Drive, Summerville, SC 29483.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Waring called the meeting to order at 8:45am.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Russ Touchberry, the chair of the committee, gave an update on what the committee discussed at the two meetings that they held in April. He stated that a new Police Headquarters was found to be the number one priority, with a new Fire Department Headquarters coming in second and a court facility in third. He said that this would require a significant capital investment in order to “do it right” the first time. Some discussion from other Councilmembers followed regarding different scenarios for the three facilities that were on topic.

PARKING GARAGE DISCUSSION

Town Engineer Russ Cornette stated that last year, he contracted with Carolina Parking Group to get a quote on paid parking equipment. He presented ideas for how a paid parking system would function, especially in regards to Town employees and the merchants in the area. Some discussion followed from the Councilmembers with their ideas for implementing the system. Town Administrator Lisa Wallace stated that staff would bring the idea to the Finance Committee with an identified funding source.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Assistant Town Administrator Madelyn Robinson stated that the contract with Trident Security was up for renewal. The company is asking for a \$1.36/hour increase. Some discussion followed. Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to agree to the contract extension with the hourly rate increase. The motion carried 6-1, with Mr. McIntosh voting in opposition.

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown, to authorize the following purchase order requests at the same time:

- Authorization to issue a purchase order to Blanchard Machinery for a Caterpillar track loader model 299D3 on State Contract totaling \$111,625.00 to be paid from Park and Recreation Impact Fees

- Authorization to issue a purchase order to Wolff & Sons Electric for installation of lights for the pickleball courts in the amount of \$40,319.00 to be paid from Park and Recreation Impact Fees

Some discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Director Amy Evans stated that the Cuthbert Community Center is deteriorating. She showed photo evidence of the decay and asked for Council to make a decision on whether to tear it down or try to continue to fix the problems. Some discussion followed on safety issues and legal issues regarding allowing some rentals to keep their reservation until the building is approved for demolition. Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to honor the rentals until July 1 as long as they sign a waiver regarding the condition of the building, and to close down the facility effective July 1, 2022, sending the demolition request to the BAR in June. The motion carried 6-1, with Mr. Brown voting in opposition.

Ms. Wallace stated that the agenda item regarding Fire Station #6 would not be discussed, as the motion at a previous meeting was to take up the item after the Budget Retreat.

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. McIntosh, to issue a purchase order for Sanders Brothers Construction in the amount of \$1,512,000.50 for road repairs and resurfacing; \$1,200,771.51 is to be reimbursed by the Dorchester County Transportation Committee and the balance of \$311,228.99 will come from budgeted capital. This contract will pave Town and State roads. Some discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Chief Wright stated that the Police Department continues to get calls about the new LED lights installed in the downtown area. Citizens are not happy with them. Mr. Cornette stated that he would check into the possible recall of the lights.

Ryan Dews, the Stormwater Manager, asked Council to please consider raising the minimum wage for entry-level employees to \$15/hour. He stated that he is not getting any quality applicants because of the low wage, and that he needs to be able to compete with private industry.

Mr. Touchberry stated that he appreciated the candidness of all of the Department Heads in their budget requests. He said that Council needs more ideas on how to increase revenue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned for Executive Session at 10:38am to discuss:

- Personnel Matters Related to Pay Programs and Salary Adjustments
- Discuss Contractual Matters and Receive Legal Advice Related to Property Acquisition
- Discuss Contractual Matters and Receive Legal Advice Related to Sale of Properties

Council reconvened at 1:38pm. Town Attorney GW Parker stated that Council met in Executive Session to discuss the following and that no action was taken in Executive Session on the items:

- Personnel Matters Related to Pay Programs and Salary Adjustments
- Discuss Contractual Matters and Receive Legal Advice Related to Property Acquisition
- Discuss Contractual Matters and Receive Legal Advice Related to Sale of Properties

ADJOURN

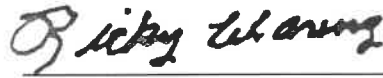
Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. McIntosh, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Messervy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Beth Messervy, Town Clerk

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ricky Waring". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ricky Waring, Mayor