

Ricky Waring, Mayor

Council Members:

Bob Jackson

Walter Bailey

Aaron Brown

Terry Jenkins

Kima Garten-Schmidt

William McIntosh



Town Administrator
Rebecca Vance

Town Clerk
Beth Messervy

Town Attorney
G.W. Parker

Town of Summerville
SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING – Budget Retreat
May 5, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ricky Waring called the Special Called Council meeting to order at 9:02am on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. The meeting was held at the Wampee Conference Center and livestreamed from the Town's website.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Waring, Councilmembers Kima Garten-Schmidt, Aaron Brown, Bob Jackson, Terry Jenkins and Walter Bailey. Councilmember Bill McIntosh was absent. A quorum was met. Staff was also present. Public and press were duly notified.

APPROVAL OF MOU

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Dorchester County and Town of Summerville regarding Miles Road fire and emergency medical services station. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Andrew Shelton, Finance Director, presented the proposed budget for July 2021 – June 2022. He stated that projected revenues in the General Fund are \$41.8 million and projected expenditures are \$45.8 million, leaving a \$4 million deficit.

Mr. Shelton presented the Local Hospitality and Accommodations Tax budget proposal, with \$3.98 million in projected revenues and \$3.5 million in expenditures after a transfer of \$1.95 million to the General Fund. Some discussion followed regarding the distribution of HTAX money to tourism-related organizations and events.

Mr. Shelton presented the Stormwater Management budget with \$2.7 million in expenditures and \$2.46 million in revenues, resulting in a \$244,300 deficit. Mr. Shelton stated that staff proposes an increase in stormwater fees to \$8 instead of \$4. He also stated that the Town has eliminated the Dorchester County stormwater fee.

Mr. Shelton stated that staff proposes a \$145.64 annual fee to increase revenue for the solid waste and sanitation fund.

Mr. Shelton presented the proposed Capital funding request of \$18.1 million after collecting all requests from each Department. He detailed the requests of each Department.

Mr. Shelton and Town Administrator Rebecca Vance answered questions from Council regarding the proposed budget for 2022.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

Mr. Shelton presented the updated 5-year Capital Improvements Plan, which is required as a part of the Impact Fee study. Mr. Shelton stated that staff needs Council input on three Municipal Facilities Plans: Court, Fire Headquarters, and Police Headquarters. Some discussion followed.

DOWNTOWN STRATEGY

Town Administrator Rebecca Vance presented two proposals for making the Downtown Summerville area safer for residents and visitors: security cameras and specified hospitality officers from the Police Department. Some discussion followed. Council requested that the items be put on the Finance Committee agenda for May 10, 2021.

Ms. Vance presented investment ideas for the Downtown Summerville area including streetscaping, road improvement projects, and potential incentives. She reported that streetscaping Main Street from the railroad tracks to Highway 78 is expensive with a cost of \$6.3 million. Ms. Vance and Council also discussed road improvement projects such as those on Cedar Street, Maple Street, and the Berlin G Myers Parkway extension.

Ms. Vance stated that staff proposes that the Town consider offering incentives to private businesses to improve the quality of their buildings in the Downtown area. Some discussion followed.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Ms. Vance presented the details of the American Rescue Plan and how it can benefit the Town. She stated that she is still waiting on guidance and answers from the Department of Treasury.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCES


Ms. Vance stated that staff proposes two economic development ordinances: The “Open for Business” program and the Business License Tax Incentive. Some discussion followed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to adjourn. The motion carried, and Mayor Waring adjourned the meeting at 11:43am.

Respectfully submitted:

APPROVED:


Beth Messervy, Town Clerk


Ricky Waring, Mayor