

MINUTES – MAY 1, 2017

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gibsonville met at 7:00 pm for a regular meeting in the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams. Alderpersons Shepherd, Owen, Revels, and Pleasants were present. Ben Baxley, Town Manager, and Laurie Yarbrough, Town Clerk, were present. Police Chief Ron Parrish, Town Attorney Doug Hoy, Planning Director Brandon Parker, Steve Harrison, Recreation Director Mike Dupree, Fire Chief Tony Roof, Public Works Director Rob Elliott, William Capps, several firemen, several citizens, and merchants were in attendance.

Invocation

Rev. Bigelow with Cappadocia Church gave the invocation.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Owen, made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Alderman Owen, seconded by Alderman Pleasants, made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation to Retiring Volunteer Fireman – William “Bills” Capps

Mayor Williams presented a Certificate of Appreciation to William Capps for his nearly 40 years of volunteer service to the Fire Department and the Town of Gibsonville; Mr. Capps also retired in 2007 as a full-time fireman for the Town.

Naming of Community Center

Mayor Williams stated a group of Gibsonville residents had asked to be put on the agenda.

Kim Lee of Driftwood Dr. stated she represented a group of citizens petitioning the Gibsonville Board of Aldermen to name the new Community Center in honor of the current Mayor; to be known as the Leonard M. Williams Community Center. She presented the Board with a letter from the citizens giving the background of the Mayor and what he had done for Gibsonville.

Jeff Neese, Pastor of Hearts on Fire Ministries, stated he thought the Mayor had done a great job. He stated his church had been in Gibsonville eleven years and they had the Gospel Fest on the Town Greens; this was because of the Mayor's help. He stated he thought the Board should name the Community Center after Mayor Leonard Williams.

Charles Jones stated he grew up in Gibsonville and he was inspired by Leonard Williams. He stated he spoke for his grandmother, Mary Summers, in her absence and himself; he thought they should name the Community Center after Mayor Leonard Williams.

Dr. Connie Bishop of Driftwood Dr. stated she taught at the Nursing School at A&T and the Mayor spoke to her students regularly. She stated the Mayor had done a lot for Gibsonville and she strongly supported naming the Community Center after Leonard Williams.

Dolly Gunnell, owner of Lighting Etc., stated the Mayor had done a lot for the merchants in Town and she would like to see the Community Center named after Leonard Williams.

Sharon Bigelow stated Mayor Williams had walked the streets of Gibsonville, worked hard for all of us, and represented Gibsonville. She asked the Board to name the Community Center after Mayor Leonard Williams.

Alderwoman Revels asked if anyone else had something to say.

Alderman Owen stated he thought at the last meeting we were waiting for donations.

Alderwoman Revels asked was there a date.

Mike Dupree, Recreation Director, stated they were launching a campaign to raise donations for equipment and furniture for the Community Center.

Alderman Shepherd stated he thought it was preliminary to put a name on the building. He stated let's get the building built then discuss this.

Alderwoman Revels stated she did not agree but she was only one vote. She stated the Board heard the people tonight.

Alderman Pleasants stated he agreed with Alderman Shepherd. He stated no one had called him about the naming of the Community Center. He stated they could name the building today, tomorrow or ten years from now; he was not ready to make a decision.

Alderwoman Revels stated she thought the Board should not make up rules as we go. She stated all say he is a big advocate of this building. She stated it would be a travesty if they did not name this building after this man.

Alderwoman Revels, seconded by Alderman Pleasants, made a motion to table this discussion until a later date. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Williams stated he appreciated everyone's effort and asked Alderwoman Revels to let everyone know when this would be back on the agenda. He stated this would be tabled for now.

FY 2017-2018 Budget Presentation

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, presented the recommended FY 2017- 2018 Budget stating the total recommended municipal budget consisted of the General Fund, Water & Sewer Fund, and Perpetual Care Trust Fund. He stated the recommended total municipal budget was \$9,100,716; this was a balanced budget with a 6.2% increase from FY 16 – 17 amended budget. He stated the recommended General Fund budget was \$5,772,516; consisting of a 4.0% increase from FY 16-17 amended budget, 2017 reappraisal year for both Alamance and Guilford Counties produced a revenue-neutral tax rate of 50.1 cents (evaluation up 4.5 since last year), recommended tax rate for FY 17-18 is 54 cents (three cents increase from FY 16-17 rate of 51 cents to fund three positions in the General Fund (one firefighter, one police officer, and public works technician - three cents tax increase equates to \$45 increase on property with a \$150,000 valuation). He stated the General Fund Revenues included a projected property tax revenue: \$2,752,941; projected sales tax revenue: \$1,247,000; projected utility franchise taxes: \$380,000; projected motor vehicle taxes: \$322,941; projected sanitation fees: \$240,000; projected Powell Bill allocation: \$189,000; Fund Balance appropriation of \$256,000 to purchase capital items, and complete one capital project. He stated the recommended Water & Sewer Fund budget was \$3,325,500; this was a 10.3% increase from FY 16-17 amended budget. He stated the Water and Sewer Fund Revenue was sewer sales: \$2,078,336; water sales: \$833,164; Water and Sewer Development Fees: \$80,000; and Reconnection Fees: \$80,000. He stated the Water & Sewer Fund Rates Increases included a 4% proposed increase in water rates (Burlington's recommended increase is 2%) needed to cover increased water system expenses, fund capital projects, and purchase capital items; a 4% proposed increase in sewer rates (Burlington is not recommending an increase) needed to cover increased sewer system expenses, fund capital projects, and purchase capital items; Inflow & Infiltration (water entering into the sewer system) is still occurring but the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project is expected to be completed in FY 17-18 and will improve I&I. General Fund Expenditures included \$171,000 to purchase two replacement patrol vehicles and one new vehicle (additional position) for the police department, \$86,897 for new debt service payments for the community center and mini excavator; \$85,000 to purchase a mini excavator for the public works department (to be financed over five years); \$50,000 for an enclosed garage for the parks and recreation department (20'x20' building at Moricle Park); \$50,000 General Fund contingency allocation; \$35,000 for eight Motorola APX 6000 walkie-talkies for the police department (to replace radios); and \$35,000 to participate in Link Transit.

Alderwoman Revels asked was there any grant funding available to purchase radios.

Ron Parrish, Police Chief stated they would be looking at a year out if they went out for grant funding.

Alderwoman Revels asked could the Town be reimburse for these.

Mr. Parrish stated they would check.

Alderwoman Revels asked how often would a mini excavator be used.

Rob Elliott, Public Works Director, stated they use the existing backhoe daily; this would provide better service and availability.

Alderwoman Revels stated they would get loan proceeds for the purchase of \$85,000.

Ben stated yes and make debt service payments. He stated Water and Sewer Fund Expenditures included \$159,381 for new debt service payments for capital projects and a utility service truck; \$152,000 for the Main Street Waterline Extension Project (this would help fire flow, they were working with the Joseph's Claim developer on an agreement); \$60,000 to fund two capital projects (\$40,000 to renovate Broad Street Lift Station and \$20,000 to upgrade the radio read system); and \$45,000 to purchase one utility service truck(to be finance over a five year period). He stated the Personnel Expenditures (General Fund & Water & Sewer Fund) included \$157,948 for three new full-time positions (\$61,425 for a police officer, \$52,557 for a firefighter, and \$43,939 for a public works technician); \$50,000 for a 1.5% across-the-board salary adjustment (both Funds); \$40,000 for an up to a 1.5% performance pay (both Funds); and \$15,500 for a 4% increase in health insurance (both Funds). Mr. Baxley stated the following was removed departmental requests: General Fund: \$709,228 removed from departmental requests (would have resulted in 12.5 cents tax increase); \$289,470 in salaries and benefits for five new positions (\$184,356 for three police officer positions and \$105,114 for two firefighter positions); \$85,000 to purchase a mowing tractor for the public works department; \$80,000 to purchase a dump truck for the public works department; \$24,000 celebrite unit for the police department; Water & Sewer Fund: Removed \$75,000

for a sewer camera and \$43,939 for a public works technician position. He stated General Fund Debt Service consisted of Fire Truck: \$74,913; Community Center: \$68,331; Garbage Truck: \$59,006; Mini Excavator: \$18,566; and Public Works Building: \$14,275 (annual obligations equate to 4.0 % of operating budget). He stated Water & Sewer Fund Debt Service consisted of Sewer Rehabilitation Project: \$97,474; Springwood Avenue/Cedar Street Waterline Replacement Project: \$34,500; Main Street Waterline Extension Project: \$17,585; Public Works Building: \$14,275; Utility Service Truck: \$9,822; Water Connection: \$3,065 (annual obligations equate to 5.3 % of operating budget). He stated the Fund Balance Policy sets target guidelines including General Fund – maintain unassigned fund balance level at 34 % of expenditures, June 30, 2016 audited level was \$2,091,377 or 39.39% of expenditures; Water & Sewer Fund – unrestricted cash at 25% of annual expenditures by June 30, 2018; and June 30, 2016 audited level was \$914,314 or 31.69% of expenditures. He presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which estimated revenues and major capital needs over a five year period.

Alderwoman Revels asked the Town Manager is the Board did not approve a tax increase where would he cut.

Mr. Baxley stated at the Board's Retreat he got the feeling the Board wanted personnel; that was the biggest request; the Town is growing and impacts services. He stated there are 400 to 500 lots to be developed over the next 2 to 3 years. He stated all development was single family residents; if the Town had commercial or industry it would fully pay for itself.

Alderman Pleasants stated the fund balance as a general rule usually had extra.

Mr. Baxley stated in the past it had; general revenue came in higher; but last year this was not the trend.

Mayor Williams stated the people they would be taking from were on social security. He stated the people in the community say they did not want a tax increase.

Alderman Dean stated he did not want to put a burden on the citizens with a tax increase. He stated a concern with spending \$176,000 on three police cars; could they not find a cheaper vehicle. He asked did they have to buy three vehicles a year. He stated a concern with the need of SUVs.

Mr. Baxley stated they were replacing two vehicles and buying one new vehicle; they replace vehicle every two years.

Alderman Dean stated they could do one vehicle this year.

Mayor Williams asked about the increase from the tax revaluation.

Mr. Baxley stated the revenue neutral was .51 cents.

Alderwoman Revels stated she did not want a tax increase but they hear of slow response from police and need more firemen; need to educate citizens.

Alderman Owen stated if Burlington was not increasing sewer could they just do 2% increase and not the recommended 4%.

Mr. Baxley stated this was to help with the sewer project that the Board had approved earlier.

Mr. Parrish stated he notice at the Retreat a Board member had a problem with getting in a police vehicle. He stated police officers wear gear that does make it difficult getting in a smaller vehicle. He stated he did not have enough police officers to patrol the Town.

Mayor Williams stated he did not understand why a police officer needed a utility vehicle.

Mr. Parrish invited all board members to ride with our police officers; he stated he had put this invite out before and only one board member has done so.

Alderman Pleasants asked what was the difference in the cost of a utility vehicle.

Mr. Parrish stated \$5,000 on State Contract and it cost \$20,000 to \$23,000 to equip each vehicle.

Alderman Dean stated he had heard citizens say they did not see police vehicles in the city but see them on Hwy. 70.

Mr. Parrish stated they have to cross Hwy. 70 to patrol city limits. He stated he tries to have two police officers on duty ; but at times there may be only one on duty.

Mr. Baxley stated he was asking for the Board's input on the recommended budget.

Mayor Williams stated if the Board wished to have a tax increase they would have to sell it to the public.

Alderwoman Revels stated the Town Manager did what the Board asked. She stated she could not tell him what to cut but the citizens needed to know.

Alderman Owen asked if the bus transit was paying off.

Mayor Williams asked for numbers on the bus transit.

Alderman Pleasants asked that the Board let the Town Manager know their suggestions before the May 13, 2017 meeting.

Connie Bishop asked when would the Board educate the public.

Mr. Baxley stated he would put a call out to the citizens before the next agenda meeting on May 13, 2017.

Reports

a. Manager

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated the Annual Stormwater meeting would be Thursday; May 4th at 5:30pm at Town Hall. He stated the Shred event would be at Beth Schmit Park on May 13th. He stated May 8th to the 12th was Spring Cleanup.

Rob Elliott, Public Works Director, stated large items would be picked up this week; no hazardous pickup.

b. Mayor

Mayor Williams stated he had sent a letter to the Railroad about the overpass and they mention safety and recommended a fence be put up. He stated they may could get a grant to help with this. He stated they would be meeting May 3rd to talk about the fence.

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated he would update the Board on the Railroad meeting at the next meeting.

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Owen, made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Mayor

Attest:

Town Clerk