

## MINUTES – MAY 15, 2017

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gibsonville met at 7:00 pm for an agenda meeting in the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams. Alderpersons Shepherd, Owen, Revels, Dean, and Pleasants were present. Ben Baxley, Town Manager, and Laurie Yarbrough, Town Clerk, were present. Police Chief Ron Parrish, Steve Harrison, Recreation Director Mike Dupree, Fire Chief Tony Roof, Public Works Director Rob Elliott, Ricky Wade, Finance Officer Chad Coble, several firemen, several police officers, and several citizens were in attendance.

Mayor Williams recognized Misty Hagood and son, Jack, in attendance. He stated Jack Hagood was with Boy Scout Troop #51 working on his citizenship badge.

### Approval of Agenda

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

### FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion

Mayor Williams stated this was the discussion of the revised FY 2017-2018 Budget.

Tony Roof, Fire Chief, asked the Board to consider two additional full-time firefighters in the budget for the Fire Department. He explained the need for additional firefighters.

Ryan Chambers, volunteer firefighter, stated they needed more than one firefighter; it makes a negative impact if only one or two firefighters show up on a call. He stated this was a small thing to ask for that would make the community safer.

Mr. Roof stated their calls had increased.

Alderman Shepherd asked if they were seeing more opium overdoses.

Mr. Roof stated yes.

Ron Parrish, Police Chief, stated yes; they look at these as overdoses and as a criminal case.

Tom White, Ashley Woods resident, stated a concern with the traffic through Ashley Woods; he asked for no thru traffic signs. He asked why were there so many fire and police personnel and two ambulances that show up on calls.

Mr. Roof stated that the fire department was closer than the EMS and they were certified in EMT; this was protocol.

Vera Griffith, a Carson Farms West resident, stated they were recently victims of an intended break-in. She stated when she called 911, she was told the Gibsonville officer was busy; she was home and the criminal was trying to break into her home. She stated an Elon officer did come but the criminal had left. She stated she would not mind a tax increase if there were more police officers and firefighters available.

Mr. Parrish stated there were only two officers working. He stated they had 94 calls with Elon officers assisting since December 2016.

Mayor Williams asked the Police Chief didn't he just hire three or four officers.

Mr. Parrish stated he had hired two officers to fill open positions.

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, recapped the recommended budget presentation of May 1, 2017. He stated he had received input from the board regarding the recommended FY 2017-2018 budget since the presentation. He prepared a Revised Recommended Budget that the Board had received. He stated the following changes were in the Revised Recommended FY 2017-2018 Budget based upon the Board's input: General Fund, Revenues - reduced the property tax rate 3 cents to 51 cents to remain the same as FY 2016-2017 tax rate (\$170,882) - no tax rate increase; increased Recreation Revenues line item for impact of \$10 increase in Non-Resident Athletic Participation Fees (\$6,000); reduced Loan Proceeds line item to account for removal of mini excavator (\$85,000) for street department; net reduction of Fund Balance Appropriation line item (\$72,000) to account for removal of additional patrol vehicle for police department, enclosed garage (storage/maintenance building) for parks and recreation department, and addition of Link Transit; Expenditures - removed the police officer position and also removed an additional patrol vehicle for said position (\$59,230 for position plus \$57,000 for vehicle; total is \$116,230); removed the mini excavator from street department (\$85,000 in capital outlay/equipment line item plus \$18,566 in debt service line item); removed the enclosed garage

(storage/maintenance building) from the parks and recreation department (\$50,000); eliminated up to a 1.5% performance pay (\$32,230); reduced the across-the-board salary adjustment from 1.5% to 1% (\$14,086). Water & Sewer Fund, Revenues - reduced the water and sewer rates increases from a 4 percent increase to 3 percent increase (\$25,440); reduced Loan Proceeds line item to account for removal of utility service truck (\$45,000) ; Expenditures - removed the utility service truck (\$45,000 in capital outlay line item plus \$9,822 in debt service line item); removed Contingency line item (\$12,000); added Reserve for Short Lived Assets per USDA line item (\$6,306); eliminated up to a 1.5% performance pay (\$3,629); reduced the across-the-board salary adjustment from 1.5% to 1% (\$1,231). He stated the revised budget reduced the General Fund by \$321,882 or 5.6 percent below the recommended budget, Water & Sewer Fund by \$70,440 or 2.1 percent below the recommended budget; the total budget by \$392,322 or 4.3 percent. He stated the revised General Fund Budget was \$100,644 or 1.8 percent below the FY 2016-2017 Amended General Fund Budget; the revised Water & Sewer Fund Budget was \$241,060 or 8.0 percent above the FY 2016-2017 Amended Water & Sewer Budget; the revised total budget was \$140,416 or 1.6% above the FY 2016-2017 Amended Total Budget.

Mayor Williams stated there was not a tax increase in the revised recommended budget; but what would the tax revaluations bring in.

Mr. Baxley stated 4 ½%.

Alderwoman Revels stated the original presented budget had 3 cents tax increase, now no tax increase. She stated water and sewer was 4 and 4 ; but now it was 3 and 3.

Mr. Baxley stated yes 3 water and 3 sewer.

Alderman Owen stated cola was 2% now was 1% ; he recommended it b 2% by taking the additional 1% from the fund balance.

Mayor Williams agreed.

Mr. Baxley stated this would be \$28,000.

Alderman Shepherd agreed. He stated the city provided tremendous services for its citizens. He stated he would like to see the Police Department get an additional officer and the Recreation Department get the equipment building. He stated they were going to need to eventually raise taxes or get out of some services. He stated they did not make money on residential; they needed commercial.

Jim Hedrick, Driftwood Dr. resident, asked who made the proposal for the recommended budget.

Mr. Baxley stated the Board.

Mr. Hedrick asked were the changes to prevent a tax increase.

Mr. Baxley stated the process began with a recommended budget and then went from there.

Mr. Hedrick asked was the Board trying to help the town grow. He stated he would rather see a tax increase than not have enough police officers. He asked how much did it cost for Elon to help.

Mr. Parrish stated they had a mutual aid agreement. He stated their number one priority should be public safety.

Yvonne Maizeland, Cook Rd. resident, asked why was the Town funding Link Transit rather than funding police officers; does the County and Burlington pay for this.

Mr. Baxley stated the City of Burlington had put \$300,000 in the Link Transit.

Mayor Williams stated he had heard people need transportation.

Mrs. Maizeland stated they needed police officers and safety first.

Beverly Ross, Ashley Woods resident, stated she would prefer police officers and firefighters more than transportation.

Steve Harrison, Planning Board Chairman and Scott Dr. resident, stated 17% to 18% of Link Transit riders live in Gibsonville. He stated he had road the Link Transit and felt it was needed.

Alderman Owen stated he had asked the Town Manager to look at the numbers on the use of the transit system and it came back that 1800 had used the system.

Mr. Baxley stated during the first three quarters; July 16, 2016 to March 17, 2017; the number of users of the Link Transit was over 1800.

Alderman Pleasants stated the Town had not had a tax increase in twelve years. He stated there could be no additional police officers without a tax increase. He stated he thought the fire department need two additional firefighters. He stated he was good with the original recommended budget with a 3 cent tax increase. He stated the bottom line was do we try to do better or stay the same or get worse. He stated the tax rate had not went up in twelve years and now the Board was faced with this.

Mayor Williams stated in 1993 the tax rate was 64 cents. He state other towns work with County or Sherriff departments; the police and fire were tremendous costs. He stated he hears about no tax increase but look at the needs and what do we do to meet the needs.

Alderwoman Revels asked for a show of hands from the audience, that lived in the city limits, in favor of a tax increase.

A majority raised their hands.

Mayor Williams stated there had not been any new residential growth in ten years; no new development.

Alderman Shepherd stated he would have voted for the recommended budget with a three cent tax increase. He stated they could not keep up with what they had now.

Alderwoman Revels stated they needed police officers, firefighters, and a public works person to serve the people of Gibsonville. She stated the people needed to hear the reasons for why they had to vote for what was best for the Town.

Alderman Shepherd stated he appreciated the community speaking. He stated he had heard that volunteers were getting harder to find and training was harder than it use to be. He stated he thought it looked like there would be a tax increase.

Alderman Dean stated he was in his second term. He stated they were asked how the fire department ran things and why. He stated firefighters went out on medical calls and they show up in case there is a need for medical equipment; which is on their truck. He stated then rescue shows up; which cannot transport; and then the ambulance; which does transport.

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Pleasants, made a motion to set a public hearing for June 5, 2017 to consider the adoption of the FY 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Williams stated the next meeting would be June 5, 2017; this would be a public hearing to consider the adoption of the FY 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance. He asked the Board to give their input on the budget to the Town Manager prior to the meeting.

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Pleasants, made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk