

TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

June 15, 2021

Present: Mayor George Holleman
Mayor Pro Tem Kenny Poole
Councilman Ronnie Robinette
Councilwoman Kimberly Brown
Councilman Jack Simms

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Holleman at 5:30 p.m. The invitation was given by Councilman Simms. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the June 1st, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented and the agenda. Item 8a. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to open the 2nd public hearing for the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget for the Town of Taylorsville, which includes projected funding from the American Rescue Revenues, proposed to be \$740,000.00. The total proposed budget is \$4,851,814.00 which is a 14.2% increase over the previous year's budget. The General Fund budget totals \$2,361,364 and is balanced with a property tax rate of 40 cents per \$100 valuation. The proposed budget reflects an estimated 21.4% increase, in part due to American Rescue Plan proceeds, improved local sales tax revenues, and ABC revenues, Covid-19 and the economic fallout from multiple executive orders, designed to protect citizens, while creating revenue dips absorbed completely at the local level. A 5% COLA is proposed to all employees both full and part time to reward the dedicated Town Employees who have persevered during the pandemic. The only general fund obligation is a true lease on 3 patrol cars and 1 public works truck, no other general fund debt exists. The streets and sanitation department has the most increase within the department due to proposed funding for re-paving streets and re-surfacing sidewalks. It was also noted that the re-wiring for holiday lighting could be included either as 1 expense of approx. \$70,000 or in 2 phases of approx. \$35,000 each year. The lighting must be replaced because Duke Power will not allow it to be repaired because it is too old. That is why there are gaps in the holiday lighting because when poles are hit by cars etc. and damaged the wiring cannot be replaced and new wiring cannot be added to old thus causing gaps in lighting. Manager Odom asked the Town Board to direct him on what they wanted to do regarding the holiday lighting. Mayor Holleman stated that he did not want the expense of the holiday lighting to come from the monies set aside for the re-paving and re-surfacing of the streets and sidewalks.

The budget for the Water & Sewer Fund totals \$2,490,450.00, an increase of 8.2%. The Town of Taylorsville has completed several major water projects; Black Oak, 5th Ave Tower Road, and major waste water repairs at the treatment plant. The Solar Project power up is still delayed by COVID 19, and Duke Energy's permitting process. The Town has a \$57,000.00 rebate reserved by Duke Power when the project is complete. Two upcoming projects consist of a new force-main sewer project on Hwy 90 East and additional Treatment Plant upgrades, pending LGC Approval. Expenditures for the Water & Sewer Fund total \$2,490,450.00. The amount represents the Town Council's proactive approach regarding improvements to public infrastructure with 2 ongoing grant projects. It is important to note that \$13.0 million dollars in grant and zero interest loans have been awarded to the Town of Taylorsville in the last 14 years.

As a very cautionary note, the enterprise fund has operated in the red the last 3 years due to many adverse weather events and the Covid -19 Pandemic. Mr. Odom also noted that due to excessive weather events, the water & sewer system incurred significant expenses and repairs to the operational infrastructure. Extensive repairs were needed on sewer lift stations, collection system, force mains and the waste water treatment plant. He noted that a rate structure will need to be considered that will bring the water & sewer fund back into a positive cash flow. The W&S fund cannot continue to operate spending more dollars than it generates without the general fund subsidizing its existence. Rate increases will be annually recommended beginning with this year until such time as we can return to a profitable position in the enterprise fund. With no further comments, the public hearing was closed by a motion from Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$12,500.00 for a one-time relief funding allocation to Alexander Central Fire Department for \$7,500.00 and the 957 Mobile Café for \$5,000.00 to assist with COVID-19 expenses. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve the budget amendment from GF fund balance to the Central Fire Dept. for \$7500.00 & 957 Mobile Café for \$5,000.00 for a one time Covid-19 assistance totaling \$12,500.00. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the budget amendment from GF fund balance to the parks & rec. dept. and Powell bill expense and sale tax expenses totaling \$28,650.00. There was also a GF transfer from the Cemetery dept. to Parks & Rec. utilities expense for \$1,000.00. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment C, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve a budget transfer within the GF totaling \$32,650.00 in order to make departments balance at year end. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment D, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve a budget amendment for the W&S dept. from W&S fund balance to various departments in order to balance at year end totaling \$64,325.00. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment E, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Holleman mentioned that Ronda Learner, sister of former Councilman Jack Lerner, had requested to put a bench and tree in Matheson Park in memory of Councilman Learner. He also stated that the Hiddenite Center would be holding their annual Hiddenite Celebration the 4th

Saturday of September. He asked the other council members if they were opposed to him purchasing a booth at the celebration to inform guests about the Town of Taylorsville. No council members were opposed.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be August 3rd, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

With no other business to discuss, Councilman Simms made a motion and was seconded by Councilman Poole to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilwoman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk