



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014

William M. Sutton, Mayor
Eugene J. Schulze, Mayor Pro Tempore
William S. Jensen, Scott R. Lassiter, Nicole L. Dozier,
and Denise C. Wilkie, Council Members
Bruce A. Radford, Town Manager
Donna B. Hosch, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk
Henry C. Fordham, Jr., Town Attorney

The Special Budget Workshop of the Apex Town Council scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. was held in the Training Rooms of Apex Town Hall, 73 Hunter Street

In attendance were Mayor William M. Sutton, Mayor Pro Tempore Eugene J. Schulze, and Council Members William S. Jensen, Scott R. Lassiter, Nicole L. Dozier, and Denise C. Wilkie. Also in attendance were Town Manager Bruce A. Radford, and Deputy Town Clerk Bonnie J. Brock.

Absent was Town Clerk Donna B. Hosch.

Staff in attendance: Stacie Galloway, Communications Manager; David Hughes, Asst. Public Works Director; Dianne Khin, Planning Director; John Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation; Kent Jackson, Construction Management Director; Pete LaPiana, Information Technology Director; Marty Mitchell, Facility & Fleet Services Director; Lee Smiley, Finance Director; Eleanor Green, Human Resources Director; Mark Haraway, Fire Chief; Jeff Maynard, Assistant Fire Chief; John Letteney, Police Chief; and Randall Heath, EMS Chief

COMMENCEMENT

Mayor Sutton called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Sutton presented Council with the proposed Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and stated the public hearing for the budget will be held the first meeting in June. The budget is to be adopted at the second meeting, June 17, 2014.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Sutton opened the floor for public comment.

Don & Laura Grimes, Marshall Barnes and Mike Wilms, residents along S. Salem Street were concerned about the aesthetics and function of the downtown area. They asked Council to consider extending the electrical underground lines to Hunter and Chatham Streets for the beautification of downtown and at a minimum, conduct a feasibility study. They believe it will improve property values and safety and will be an investment for the future.

Nicky Winstead, retired Apex EMS Director, stated he is concerned that Wake County does not want to fund positions for an EMS Director or Administrative Assistant for the Apex EMS facility. Wake County EMS will not provide staffed, EMS ambulances for [Apex] football games. He recommended appointing a Council member to work with [Apex] EMS as a liaison in corresponding with Wake County EMS.

The General Fund capital requests were reviewed; the Council received the following responses on some of the line items discussed:

Smiley stated fund balances and projected revenues; the electric revenues will increase, the Powell Bill is a slow growing revenue and other revenues are expected to stay the same. Residential building permit revenues are very good, commercial permit revenues are not.

Green stated there are eight (8) new positions proposed, a 3.6% merit average is recommended as well as a 1% market increase to pay ranges and thirty four (34) positions were reclassified this year.

Galloway stated the website re-design is necessary because residents are having trouble with the current site; the town needs to move to a vendor who has experience with government sites.

Town Hall Secure Access Control – several department directors shared incidents and experiences from their staff where their personal safety was a concern. Also, there are employees who have left the town that still have keys to access town buildings.

Letteney stated there is an increased need for a canine; Apex PD has to borrow a canine which is used to track people; suspects, missing persons and is used for drug searches in schools. They cannot always get a dog when they need it, or, they have to wait which is not good for an investigation or a lost child.

Mayor Sutton requested to have future discussions regarding future Fire Department needs at a regular meeting.

The items for replacement chairs in the Council Dias area, Christmas tree lower tier addition and PowerPro ambulance stretchers were removed from the Capital Fund requests.

Radford stated there is \$168,000.00 in the budget to pay salaries for and EMS Director and Administrative Assistant and seeks direction. Council Member Lassiter stated he is in support of using these funds for the EMS salaries. Member Schulze concurred. Council Member Dozier stated we should not single-out one sport or one group of kids in providing ambulances at games. Heath stated Apex High School hires EMS to attend their games and they use a stand-by ambulance for this service. In additions, he discussed response times of the Town of Apex and Wake County EMS and the need to replace an ambulance. If the County takes over Apex EMS, it would cease to exist.

In response to the public comments regarding underground utilities, Radford stated it would be an estimated cost of \$1.5M to move existing overhead infrastructure underground from Chatham Street to NC 55. Hughes stated the removal of overhead infrastructure to underground lines will be very expensive, inconvenient to Salem Street merchants and residents and the scope of this work would involve easements, location, costs and who actually wants underground lines. It would not enhance functionality; only aesthetics. Couch offered the previous removal of overhead lines in the downtown area were for lighting only, the overhead power lines have been, and remain behind the downtown buildings. If we convert infrastructure to underground, Chatham and adjacent streets would be affected by new, underground lines for Salem Street. Khin stated these streets would lose trees because you cannot have vegetation in underground utilities.

Radford updated Council on the purchase of 92 acres for future park land that appears to be best suited for parkland. Bown stated the tax value is more than the appraised value; the town offered the property owners the appraised value and we will know more on this within a month.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Bonnie J. Brock
Deputy Town Clerk

ATTEST:

William M. Sutton
Mayor