

WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Budget Work Session on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via “Zoom” with Council members participating remotely due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor’s Executive Order on social distancing:

- PRESENT: Council Members: Bobby Henderson, Mayor
 Lana Williams, Vice Mayor
 Bruce Allen, Council member
 Terry Short, Jr., Council member
 Sam Hostetter, Council member
- City Staff: Mike Hamp, City Manager
 Jim Shaw, Deputy City Manager
 Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council
 Cameron McCormick, Finance Director

ABSENT: None

The Vice Mayor opened the meeting and the City Manager provided introductory remarks regarding the fiscal year 2021 budget process, noting the strain between affordability and the need to maintain service levels while providing sufficient resources to accomplish new capital or organizational investments.

The Deputy City Manager and the Finance Director then provided a slide presentation on the budget preparation process, including:

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| Council budget retreat priorities | Supplemental requests for the General Fund |
| COVID-19 budget impact recap | Enterprise Fund rates |
| Preliminary revenue and expenditure changes | Real Estate Tax |
| | Next Steps |

Based on questions from Council, the Finance Director provided a brief explanation for the supplemental requests for the General Fund, including added Fire Department and Police Department personnel.

Due to reassessments, the current tax rate of \$.90 would have to be equalized at \$.83 per \$100 of assessed value. Council member Allen asked that Council be provided with a slide that shows the current rate and the equalized rate total dollar value. He was told the difference would be approximately between \$1.3 and \$1.4 million.

Council member Allen stated that compensation and the west end fire statement are priorities, but he favors equalization of the tax rate based on the added growth and development in the City that may provide the added income making it unnecessary to raise the rate on residents. Council member Short stated that with an equalized tax rate it may not be possible to provide the Council priorities noted during the Council Retreat. Mayor Henderson stated he wants to proceed with the Compensation and Classification Study noted on the supplemental request. Vice Mayor Williams stated that due to rising

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household costs for citizens, she is in favor of an equalized tax rate. Council member Hostetter stated compensation is a priority but he wants to see how the phases would fit into the budget. There is a gap between equalizing the tax rate and maintaining the current rate.

There is a budget work session scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 at which time the Capital Improvement Projects and miscellaneous items will be discussed. The City Manager will present his proposed fiscal year 2021 budget on Monday, April 5, 2021 and the tax rate public hearing will be held during the Regular Council Meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021.

With no further items to discuss, the work session was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

Bobby Henderson, Mayor