

WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, April 23, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Charles T. Yancey Municipal Building, 503 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia, with Mayor Allen presiding and calling the meeting to order:

- PRESENT: Council Members: Bruce Allen, Mayor
Terry Short, Jr., Vice Mayor
Jeff Freeman, Councilman
Pete Marks, Councilman
Elzena Anderson, Councilwoman
- City Staff: Michael G Hamp II, City Manager
D. James Shaw, Deputy City Manager
Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council
Terri Marks, Finance Director
Alisa King, Assistant Finance Director
- School Members: Ms. Vermell Grant, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Kathe Maneval, School Board Chair
- Outside Counsel: Ms. Melisa Michelsen, Esq., Litten & Sipe LLP
- ABSENT: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Mayor Allen opened the meeting and asked the City Manager to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilwoman Anderson moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Having been seconded, the motion was adopted 5:0 with affirmative votes from Council members Allen, Short, Freeman, Marks and Anderson.

- a) **Approval of Minutes:** Consider adopting the minutes for the March 26, 2018 and April 9, 2018 Regular Business Meetings and the April 2 and April 11, 2018 Budget Work Sessions, and dispense with the reading of the minutes.
- b) **Second consideration/adoption of the following appropriation ordinances:**
 - i. General Fund – Replenish Undesignated Operating Contingency Fund (\$8,000). **(2018-25)**
 - ii. Parks and Recreation – HVAC at Rosenwald Community Center (\$30,000). **(2018-26)**
 - iii. Schools – Tutoring Homeless Students Transportation Costs (\$25,000). **(2018-27)**

Regular Business Meeting
Monday, April 23, 2018
Adopted May 14, 2018

MATTERS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS: With no matters from City Council, the meeting continued.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 OPERATING BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

The suggested and advertised tax rate increase was six cents (\$.06) per \$100 of assessed value. City Council's general guidance focused on a real property tax rate of \$.90, a three-cent increase over the current tax rate. The City Manager reviewed the add/delete list providing the deletions and additions in funding that reflect the new recommended rate for a balanced budget.

The public hearing on the recommended Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 was opened at 7:10 p.m.

Kathe Maneval, 145 Huntington Place: spoke on behalf of the Waynesboro School Board regarding funding that was shifted from the state to the locality and the negative impact to salaries. Waynesboro was competitive with Staunton and Augusta County, but she provided a chart showing how Waynesboro has fallen behind. There is a teacher shortage and teachers can choose where they want to work. She asked that Council provide the full \$500,000 in additional appropriations for a 2% pay raise for the schools.

Robert Horowitz, 1216 Frederick Street: spoke as the secretary for the Board of Elections. Neither the Electoral Board nor the Registrar were communicated with regarding their proposed budget and the cutting of the requested full-time assistant registrar position. It is imperative that the City work with the Registrar's Office to prevent any perception that the election process is at risk, and their request for expenditures is to maintain the integrity of the voting process. He asked that Council and staff communicate with the Registrar and the Board.

Rosemary Wagner, 787 Brower Road, Augusta County: spoke as an employee of the school for 29 years, stating that students need good teachers and the City is losing most experienced people to Augusta County. Over the years, the teachers have not received pay raises that keep up with other localities; 1% is not enough. She asked that Council ensure the pay keeps pace with neighboring localities.

The public hearing was closed at 7:23 p.m. The Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget ordinance will be considered at the May 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019-2023 PUBLIC HEARING:

The Capital Improvement Plan will be included with the Appropriation Ordinance and the budget document. The Plan lists items that are necessary with work that is aimed at improving water treatment and distribution, collection and treatment for the sewer system, stormwater projects, Greenway Phase 3, Constitution Park development, and future projects depending on funding and grant opportunities.

The public hearing was opened at 7:23 p.m. With no one signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed. No council action was required.

TAXES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018 PUBLIC HEARING:

Council has communicated a focus on a three-cent real property tax rate increase, producing a ninety-cent (\$.90) tax rate if adopted. One of the initiatives in the Appropriation Ordinance is a contribution to the Waynesboro High School renovation project debt service fund. That contribution is exempt from the funding formula. The City Manager noted that economic climate has changed since the school funding formula was established. He recommended the City Council and School Board meet to revisit the funding formula structure.

The public hearing was opened at 7:27 p.m.

Ms. Diana Williams, 185 S. Delphine Avenue: spoke as a member of the School Board, as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and as a citizen. She said the tax hike is an investment in the community, and a significant part of the City's future is a strong school division. When speaking to citizens, the three elements most mentioned are support for education, support for City services such as officers and outreach, and they want code enforcement. She said Waynesboro is losing good teachers to Staunton and other locations and in order to compete, the City must increase revenue.

Mr. Harry Colman, 105 Tiffany Drive: favors the six-cent real estate tax rate increase. Waynesboro should have spent more to increase the quality of life and infrastructure in the City for years. He created a spreadsheet of 16 years of data for 39 cities to investigate tax rates. Waynesboro's three decreases and two increases in 16 years are fewer than most cities. He is convinced the low tax rate benefits big property owners the most and hardest on the City's poorer citizens by hurting the schools, police, fire department and other services.

Mr. Perry Fridley: declined to speak.

The public hearing was closed at 7:34 p.m. With no questions or comments from Council, Councilman Marks moved to introduce an ordinance **IMPOSING A TAX RATE OF \$.90 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018 ON PROPERTY AND PERSONS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE CITY DEBT, FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT, FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER EXPENSES, PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY, FOR THE COLLECTION OF TAXES, REVENUES, AND ASSESSMENTS, AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS THEREOF.** Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting.

CODE AMENDMENT - WATER AND SEWER CHARGES, FEES, RATES PUBLIC HEARING:

The proposed water fixed and consumption rates would increase by 3.1%. Water consumption rate would increase to \$5.13 per 1,000 gallons of use and the fixed rate for a single-family home would increase to \$8.66 per month. The proposed sewer rate for both fixed and consumption would increase by 2.5%. Sewer consumption rates would increase to \$8.70 per 1,000 gallons of use. The fixed fee for a single-family home would increase to \$14.09 per month. The Deputy City Manager provided a comparison of the proposed City rates with neighboring jurisdictions. The City is within the limits of affordability based on EPA standards.

The public hearing was opened at 7:39 p.m. With no one signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed. Vice Mayor Short moved to introduce an ordinance **AMENDING SECTIONS 86-28(A)(1), 86-28(A)(2), AND 86-139(A) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO TO INCREASE WATER UTILITY SERVICE CHARGES, FEES, AND RATES AND SEWER UTILITY SERVICE CHARGES AND RATES AS**

Regular Business Meeting
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SPECIFIED. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting.

CODE AMENDMENT - FOOD, BEVERAGE, CIGARETTE TAXES PUBLIC HEARING:

The City Manager's recommended budget relies on the additional revenue produced by a 1% increase to the meals tax and a 10 cent increase to the cigarette tax rate which increases revenues to the General Fund. The resulting rates will be 7% for the meals tax and 30 cents per pack for the cigarette tax.

The public hearing regarding the ordinance amending Chapter 78, Food and Beverage Tax, was opened at 7:42 p.m. With no one signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed. Councilwoman Anderson moved to introduce ordinances **AMENDING CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 78-154, FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX, AND ARTICLE VII, SECTION 78-188, CIGARETTE SALES TAX, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO.** Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting.

The public hearing regarding the ordinance amending City Code Section 78-188, Cigarette Sales Tax, was opened at 7:43 p.m. With no one signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed. Councilwoman Anderson moved to introduce an ordinance **AMENDING CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 78-154, FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX, AND ARTICLE VII, SECTION 78-188, CIGARETTE SALES TAX, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO.** Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting.

WAYNE THEATER GRAND GALA APPLICATION:

Councilman Freeman moved to approve an application from the Wayne Theater to allow the closure of a portion of Main Street and the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on city property on Friday, May 18, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. during the Wayne Theater's Grand Gala. This application was originally approved for April 7, 2018 but was postponed due to inclement weather. **Having been seconded and with no objections, the application was approved 5:0 with affirmative votes from Council members Allen, Short, Freeman, Marks, and Anderson.**

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Regional Youth Commission Appointment: Councilman Freeman moved to appoint Mr. Doug Davis to the Regional Youth Commission as a Waynesboro representative for an unexpired three-year term ending August 31, 2019. **Having been seconded and with no objections, the appointment was approved 5:0 with affirmative votes from Council members Allen, Short, Freeman, Marks, and Anderson.**

Parks and Recreation Commission Appointment: Councilman Freeman moved to appoint Ms. Vickie Ferreira to the Parks and Recreation Commission in the Ward B seat for an unexpired four-year term ending August 31, 2019. **Having been seconded and with no objections, the appointment was approved 5:0 with affirmative votes from Council members Allen, Short, Freeman, Marks, and Anderson.**

ORDINANCES:

School Appropriation – Technology Hardware: Vice Mayor Short moved to introduce an ordinance APPROPRIATING A TITLE I, PART A, FEDERAL GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,000, TO THE SCHOOL FUNDS FOR TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE EXPENSES AT WENONAH AND WILLIAM PERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting.

School Appropriation – Salaries and Benefits: Vice Mayor Short moved to introduce an ordinance APPROPRIATING A TITLE II, PART A, FEDERAL GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,800 TO THE SCHOOL FUNDS FOR SALARIES AND BENEFIT EXPENSES. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting.

COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE, AND CALENDAR:

Job Opportunities: The City has openings for crossing guards, utility workers, refuse collection workers, and refuse equipment operators. With the exception of the part-time crossing guard position, these positions are classified full-time positions with benefits.

Paving: It is paving season and the impacted areas are available for viewing on the City’s website.

Utility Work Schedule: A reminder that the City’s website provides information on where utility work is being performed. It is available on the Public Works section of the website.

Acknowledge 911 Telecommunicators: The first week of April is 911 Telecommunicator Week. The City was derelict in acknowledging the City’s 911 Telecommunicators, and the City Manager wanted to recognize the service of those individuals and the essential part of the community and safety team.

Spring Cleaning and Bulk Collection: The City Manager reminded citizens to call Public Works to schedule a pick-up of any bulk items, including clippings, pruning, branches, before placing them curbside.

Florence Avenue Bridge Progress: The Deputy City Manager provided an update on the progress being made on the Florence Avenue Bridge renovation project.

Public Works Recognitions: Two Public Works divisions received awards for exceptional work. Acknowledgement of these awards will appear on the May 14, 2018 Council Meeting Agenda.

Blue Ridge Soap Box Derby: The Mayor reminded everyone that the Blue Ridge Soap Box Derby will take place on Saturday, May 5

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD: With no one signed up to speak, the meeting continued.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. on a motion by Vice Mayor Short.

[Clerk’s Note: The scheduled Closed Meeting was cancelled.]

Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

Bruce Allen, Mayor