

WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Waynesboro High School Auditorium, 1200 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia with Mayor Henderson calling the meeting to order. This meeting was also viewable by accessing the City’s YouTube channel.

- 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: Michael Hamp, City Manager
James Shaw, Deputy City Manager
Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council
Cameron McCormick, Finance Director
Luke Juday, Planning Director
- Counsel: Melisa Michelsen, Esq., Litten & Sipe LLC
- ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Mayor opened the meeting and the City Manager reviewed the process for citizens to comment via telephone during the public hearings and the citizen comment period. The Mayor then lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Council member Hostetter moved to adopt the Business Meeting Agenda. Having been seconded and with no objections, **the Business Meeting Agenda was adopted 5:0:**

Mayor Henderson	Aye	Council member Allen	Aye
Vice Mayor Williams	Aye	Council member Short	Aye
		Council member Hostetter	Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Mayor Williams moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Having been seconded and with no objections, **the Consent Agenda adopted 5:0:**

Mayor Henderson	Aye	Council member Allen	Aye
Vice Mayor Williams	Aye	Council member Short	Aye
		Council member Hostetter	Aye

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Adopted May 10, 2021

- a. Council Meeting Minutes: April 5 and 6 Budget Work Sessions and April 12, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

Second consideration/adoption of the following ordinances:

- b. Rezone Properties to MX-B (2021-30)
- c. Cemetery Fence Repair (\$2,927) (2021-31)
- d. Tourism Advertising Expenditures (\$20,717) (2021-32)
- e. Brownfields Grant (\$300,000) (2021-33)

MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR

With no comments from the Mayor, the meeting continued.

MATTERS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice Mayor Williams expressed her condolences to family of Anne Seaton, wife of Augusta County Board of Supervisors Scott Seaton, for their tragic loss.

Council member Hostetter also expressed his sympathy for the Seaton family. He provided a COVID-19 update for the City, stating fewer cases were reported and vaccination administrations are now available to all people in multiple locations.

Council member Short expressed his condolences to the Seaton family, stating his personal connection to the family.

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST TO REZONE 1115 IVY STREET

The Planning Director reviewed a request by Dr. Roxana Karimianpour to change the zoning of 1115 Ivy Street (Tax Map #35-4126A-4) from H-B Highway Business to L-B Local Business. The intent is to make the location a live/work unit after building and zoning compliance. The Planning Commissions recommended approval 7:0 and no members of the public spoke at the Planning Commission public hearing.

The public hearing was opened at 7:11 p.m. With no members of the public wishing to speak and no callers, the public hearing was closed. Vice Mayor Williams moved to introduce an ordinance **APPROVING A REQUEST BY DR. ROXANA KARIMIANPOUR TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF 1115 IVY STREET (TAX MAP #35-4126A-4) FROM H-B HIGHWAY BUSINESS TO L-B LOCAL BUSINESS**. Having been seconded and with no objections, this ordinance will be considered for approval at the May 10, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

PRESENTATION – CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

Council received the final presentation of the City Manager’s Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. The General Fund operating budget balances at approximately \$54.5 million. The 7.6% increase from the fiscal year 2021 budget was due to the extreme emergency measures taken caused by the uncertain economic and public health conditions impacting the budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation included the General Fund revenue sources, budgeted use changes, revenue uses, new positions funded in budget, positions requested but not funded, and Enterprise Fund rates.

PUBLIC HEARING – TAXES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

A public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2022 was opened at 7:33 p.m.

Dwight Williams, Jefferson Lane: after requesting a moment of silence in remembrance of Mrs. Anne Seaton, he stated his support of a tax-neutral position.

Craig Scott, Armistead Road: suggested ways for the City to turn liabilities into assets, including privatization of utilities.

Herman Wells, Magnolia Avenue: opposed to a property tax rate increase.

Tiffany Sensabaugh, Woodrow Avenue: supports a tax rate reduction to \$.83.

Jamey Sensabaugh, Woodrow Avenue: opposed to a tax rate increase.

John Woodworth, Chestnut Avenue: supports a tax-neutral position.

Danny Ledford, Wayne Avenue: opposed to a tax rate increase.

Curt Lilly, 218 Skyland Avenue: opposed to a tax rate increase.

Jim Wood, Mt. Vernon Street: opposed to a tax rate increase.

With no further speakers signed up and no callers, the public hearing was closed at 7:55 p.m.

Vice Mayor Williams moved to introduce an amended ordinance IMPOSING TAXES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021 FROM \$.90 PER \$100 TO AN EQUALIZED RATE OF \$.83 PER \$100 ON PROPERTY AND PERSONS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE CITY DEBT, FOR THE SUPPORT OF CITY GOVERNMENT, FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER EXPENDITURES NECESSARY FOR PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY, FOR THE COLLECTION OF TAXES, REVENUES, ASSESSMENTS AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS HEREOF. Council member Allen seconded the motion. Council member Short asked Council to proceed with the original ordinance, but the original motion was to be voted on before another motion can be considered. Having been properly seconded, the amended ordinance will be considered again at the May 10, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – SEWER, STORMWATER, AND REFUSE CHARGES, FEES AND RATES

The public hearing to receive public comment regarding an ordinance amending Sections 30-58(h)(3)(a), 30-58(h)(3)(b), 66-3(c), and 86-139(a) of the Code of the City of Waynesboro to increase sewer utility charges and rates, refuse user rates, and stormwater equivalent residential unit rates was opened at 7:59 p.m.:

John Woodworth, Chestnut Avenue: asked if Council had investigated the privatization of certain utilities and asked that the City post on the website best practices for measuring progress the City makes in cutting costs. The mayor stated he would meet with Mr. Woodworth after the meeting.

With no further speakers signed up and no callers, the public hearing was closed at 8:01 p.m.

Council member Hostetter moved to introduce an ordinance AMENDING SECTIONS 30-58(H)(3)(A), 30-58(H)(3)(B), 66-3(C), AND 86-139(A) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO TO INCREASE SEWER UTILITY CHARGES AND RATES REFUSE USER RATES, AND STORMWATER EQUIVALENT RESIDENTIAL UNIT RATES. Having been properly seconded and with no objections, this ordinance will receive final consideration at the May 10, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARING – FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

A public hearing to receive public comment regarding the recommended Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 was opened at 8:02 p.m.

Erika Smith, Jefferson Avenue: As member of the School Board, asked Council to support the \$.90 tax rate.

With no further speakers signed up and no callers, the public hearing was closed at 8:07 p.m.

The Deputy City Manager stated that due to the introduced ordinance having a lower tax rate, the recommended budget must be amended to reflect the reduction of expenditures and revenue. The attorney recommended that Council consider introducing the budget ordinance with the understanding that if the amended tax rate ordinance is adopted at more than a 1% change to the budget ordinance another public hearing is required. Council member Short expressed concern about the lower tax rate’s impact on the public services, school budget and employee compensation and suggested the public be made aware of the revised budget before adopting it. Council member Allen stated that a lower tax rate will not negatively impact those items due to the growth of the local economy and the American Rescue Plan funding. **Vice Mayor Williams moved to introduce the ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022.** Council member Hostetter questioned how the budget ordinance can be considered without knowing how a reduced tax rate will impact it. To proceed with reviewing a revised budget, Council member Hostetter seconded the motion for further consideration at the May 10, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPOINTMENT

Council member Short moved to appoint the following individuals to the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board for the indicated terms:

- Carolyn Clark 09/01/2021 – 08/31/2025 (Reappointment)
- Michael Crider 09/01/2021 – 08/31/2025
- Walter Carter 09/01/2021 – 08/31/2025

Having been seconded and with no objections, the appointments were adopted 5:0:

Mayor Henderson	Aye	Council member Allen	Aye
Vice Mayor Williams	Aye	Council member Short	Aye
		Council member Hostetter	Aye

COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE, AND CALENDAR

With no comments from Council or staff, the meeting continued.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

Jim Wood, Mt. Vernon Street: asked that Council consider adopting a resolution honoring Mrs. Anne Seaton for her work, passion, and involvement in the community.

Tinya Tang: asked Council to consider adopting a resolution alerting citizens and media about the victimization of political prisoners and forced organ donations, asking everyone to be aware before traveling to China.

Resident of Buckingham County: spoke about the Chinese government taking organs from religious prisoners and selling them, and he encouraged Council to consider adopting a resolution denouncing the practice

ADJOURN

Having no further business to discuss, Council member Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Having been seconded and with no objections, the meeting was adjourned 5:0 at 8:42 p.m.:

Mayor Henderson	Aye	Council member Allen	Aye
Vice Mayor Williams	Aye	Council member Short	Aye
		Council member Hostetter	Aye

[Clerk's Note: The Mayor, on behalf of the City Council, signed a proclamation (P21-04) naming Friday, April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day in the City of Waynesboro, and the proclamation was provided to Mr. Stephen Black, City of Waynesboro Horticulturalist.]

Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

Bobby Henderson, Mayor