

# WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

## JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a joint meet with the School Board on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 5:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Charles T. Yancey Municipal Building, 503 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia, with Mayor Short presiding and calling the meeting to order:

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Terry Short, Jr., Mayor, At Large  
Bobby Henderson, Vice Mayor, Ward C  
Bruce Allen, Ward B  
Elzena Anderson, Ward A  
Sam Hostetter, Ward D (joined meeting at 5:42 p.m.)

School Board: Rick Wheeler, Chair, Ward B  
Diane Williams, Vice Chair, Ward A  
Debra Freeman-Belle, Ward C  
Erika Smith, At Large

City Staff: Mike Hamp, City Manager  
Jim Shaw, Deputy City Manager  
Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council  
Cameron McCormick, Finance Director  
Luke Juday, Planning Director

School Staff: Dr. Jeffrey Cassell, Superintendent  
Ms. Vermell Grant, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Vonda Hutchinson, Finance Director

**ABSENT:** Kathe Maneval, Ward D

### **OPENING REMARKS:**

The purpose of this joint meeting was to discuss the current revenue sharing agreement and whether it sufficiently funds the City's public education system per the priorities of the School Board and the City Council.

### **FUNDING FORMULA DISCUSSION:**

When asked by the School Board if the 42.5% of discretionary revenues from the General Fund is considered the Council's base line and any funding requests over that amount would be problematic, the Vice Mayor stated that Council needs a firm budget number from the School Board at the start of the budget year so that the Council can better set the City's budget, as opposed to considering funding requests above the funding formula later in the budget year. Both the Council and Board members agreed that using a revenue sharing agreement is the best way to proceed for both budgets as it offers sensibility and stability.

Joint City Council and School Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 17, 2019  
Adopted October 28, 2019

The Deputy City Manager reviewed a slide presentation highlighting the revenue sources for the current revenue sharing agreement, variations of formulas, revenue trends, and the General Fund usage by category for 2019 vs 2020. Also discussed was the current percentage of real estate tax revenue for the General Fund. The Deputy City Manager reviewed the past two year's tax rate increases, noting the current percentage of revenue from real estate tax is approximately 46%, although the Mayor stated he would like to move it toward approximately 50%.

The School Superintendent made several observations regarding the difficulty of providing a budget to Council earlier in the cycle including what decisions are made in Richmond. Due to the number of special needs students and a poverty rate of 67%, it is difficult to estimate what the future needs will be.

***Employee Compensation:***

Employee compensation is an important element to both entities. The Deputy City Manager stated that in conversation with the School staff, the 42.5% funding formula is not adequately funding the schools in addressing their priorities, including employee compensation. Dr. Cassell noted that since 2016, employee compensation has been a top priority in their Strategic Plan, and he expects it to be the top priority during the School Board budget presentation to be delivered in 2020. The City Manager stated that employee compensation will also be a priority on the municipal side, noting it will be difficult to fund both compensation and additional initiatives in that environment.

Ms. Freeman-Belle summarized that it appears both the School Board and City Council concur that the 42.5% funding formula is not adequately funding the school system, and that where possible, the City will help the Schools with their funding needs. Mayor Short agreed with the clarification that it will be done within the context that a balance must be struck to include the needs of the municipal organization. Council asked the School Board to provide staff with updates through the budget process.

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With no further matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

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Terry Short, Jr., Mayor