



City Council Worksession

Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1st Floor

January 25, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:01 PM

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

Members of Council in attendance - Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, and Mayor Murray.

II. EMPLOYEE NEW HIRE RECOGNITION

A. Finance Department - Kathy Todd, Finance Director

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, introduced Sandra Rice.

III. PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. Beaufort County Stormwater update.

Katie Herrera, Beaufort County Stormwater Manager, went over the Southern Lowcountry Design Manual. Beaufort County has had some form of established regulations since the mid 1990's. Beaufort County became a Stormwater Utility in 2001. The manual was prepared by Center for Watershed Protection (CWP), along with McCormick Taylor. This manual was designed so all regions have the same stormwater practices in place. This prevents a potential developer from choosing one region over another. Since implementation, there have been 27 projects submitted for review. 6 have been granted Stormwater permits.

The City's current Stormwater standards are found in the Beaufort Code in Section 8.3. If the city were to adopt this manual, it can be drafted to fit the city's needs, as they may be different than another location in the county. Implementation of this manual began February 1, 2021, in Beaufort County. The Town of Bluffton has also started implementation of these procedures.

B. Update from Beaufort Memorial Hospital on the Coronavirus.

Russell Baxley, CEO of Beaufort Memorial Hospital, went over some statistics associated with all the variations of the virus. He stated that most of the cases have been unvaccinated patients. Omicron has spiked the amount of testing being done, along with emergency room and urgent care visits. Most cases are outpatient.

C. Presentation of the FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, stated that the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The report is being uploaded to the city's website tomorrow for public viewing. She mentioned that it is no longer referred to as the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). It is now the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, but the data and formatting are exactly the same. She went

over the auditor's discussion and analysis section with Council, as it is a required communication from the external auditors.

A. Staff recommendations on proposed use of ARPA Funds.

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, stated that the funds need to be obligated by December 2024, and funds must be expended by December 2026. She stated that obligated means contracts are in place.

Mayor Murray stated that several citizens have said that this money should be sent back to the Federal Government. He posed the question to Council if the money should be sent back. He stated that there have been some other smaller jurisdictions that have done this.

Ms. Todd reported that the city is receiving a total of \$6,689,031.44 in two installments. To date, we have received \$3,344,515.72. We will receive the same amount in September 2022. She stated that there are four categories that govern the way the money is to be spent. Replace lost public sector revenue. Support the COVID 19 public health and economic response. Provide premium pay for eligible workers performing essential work. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. She stated that these recommendations are placeholders and can be adjusted. All expenditures must go before Council for final approval. She then went over all of the recommendations in each category.

Councilman Lipsitz asked if these funds can be used to get matching grants. Ms. Todd stated yes.

Ms. Todd stated that Beaufort County has allocated \$500,000.00 to the city to be used for Cybersecurity and another \$500,000.00 for the Good Neighbor Program. She then went over the recommendations of spending these funds.

B. FY 2022 2nd Quarter Financial Overview.

Alan Eisenman, Senior Accountant, started off by saying that revenues are not received equally throughout the fiscal year. He used opengov.com to report the revenues and expenditures through the second quarter that ended on December 31, 2022. Revenues received were \$12,074,973.00. Expenditures were \$12,861,014.59. The expenditures exceed the revenues by \$786,041.59. He stated that this is a normal trend as compared to previous years, as Property Tax payments are not received from Beaufort County until sometime in the third quarter.

IV. ADJOURN

6:57 PM

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