

**TOWN OF HARRISBURG, NORTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
HARRISBURG TOWN HALL
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Sciascia called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Benita Conrad, Councilmen Chad Baucom, Christopher Barfield, Ron Smith, Rick Russo, Jeff Phillips, John Booth

ABSENT: Mayor Steve Sciascia

1.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Conrad called the meeting to order.

2.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Department Goals for FY2017

Communications

- Increase citizen education opportunities
- Enhance town outreach efforts – collaboration/partnerships
- Maintain communication channels and build engagement/usage
- Expand visibility of brand

Council also asked for more communication concerning new businesses coming to town, and noted that they should be more visible themselves at community and regional events.

Parks and Recreation

- More indoor and educational programming
- Outdoor public art displays, more art opportunities
- Become a healthier community
- Become more connected and walkable
- Expand sports opportunities – bring sporting events to Harrisburg, etc.
- Improving work conditions

Eric Smallwood, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that he would like to take Mike Rose's place on the Arts Committee. There is a lot of excitement in the community around the expansion of Harrisburg Park also. Council suggested a survey go out in the water bills to get community feedback on how they would like to see that expansion look. Also would like to see more volunteerism, and discussed concession proceeds as well as grant opportunities in the department.

Administration/Finance

- Improve employee safety (physical setting)
- Enhance/expand employee safety/risk management training (OSHA/Safety Officer)

- Improve facility through expansion (Town Hall space limitations)
- Secure storage (minutes, personnel records)

Council suggested looking into moving minutes to a digital format so that they are more searchable. Also discussed the audit process and the schedule for bidding that service out.

Planning and Zoning

- Provide consistent, satisfactory customer service levels as services increase
- Evaluate UDO for consistency/transparency (needs clean up after amendments)
- Increase focus on transportation issues (roads, bike/ped)
- Update Harrisburg Area Land Use Plan with Cabarrus County
- Small area plans per EDC assessment (2 of 3 by FY17-18)

Discussion included the suggestion of continuing to work with regional partners to address issues and share information.

Public Works

- Water agreement with Concord to reduce amount purchased from Charlotte
- Water rates and using development tap fees to fund CIP projects
- Move forward with Public Works site
- Look at ways to reduce engineering costs
- Take advantage of low asphalt prices to add additional funds to catch up on resurfacing
- Tie in several more pump stations to gravity lines
- Design and bid CMAQ sidewalk project
- Continue to upgrade equipment to give capability to do smaller projects in-house

Discussion surrounded engineering needs and costs, road resurfacing needs, decommissioning pump stations. Continue to search for an engineer.

Fire Department

- Facilities safe/working order-renovations, replacement, safety
- Apparatus, equipment, facilities meet demand
- Fire Station 2
- Enhance training division – full-time positions, training facility
- Maintaining minimum staffing/retention
- Emergency operations plan
- Technology and data management, add virtual server to sync with town at Station 1
- Merge phone systems – Station 1
- Refreshing back-up system – Station 1

Discussion included the costs of training new recruits and how to best retain employees to lower those turnover costs, and whether there are any opportunities for saving in other areas.

Sheriff's Department

- Add 2 deputies and associated equipment
- Fund 2 vehicles for new positions

Discussion surrounded the future law enforcement needs of the Town, vehicle replacement standards.

Economic Development

- Small area plans (2)
- Expand façade improvement program
- Expand public space at Town Center
- Support workforce development
- Retail targets – recruit to fill leakage
- Rail station/transportation
- Support business association groups (HBA, HBN, Chamber, EDC)
- ABC Store on ballot?

Discussion surrounded the ABC Store question and whether that is something the Town would be interested in pursuing.

3.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Discussion

Communications

- Videography request –how many views do these typically get? Consensus was to go ahead with this on a smaller scale – possibly use a student or volunteer to make a video and then see how many hits it gets before moving forward with more. Remove \$7,000 request.

Water and Sewer Rates

- New options for increases presented to Council. After discussion, consensus of Council was to move forward with the option of 11% increase for inside customers (no increase of minimum), and 35% increase for outside customers.

Personnel

- MAPS Group will be here on June 4 to discuss the Pay and Classification Study results. Council will hold off on these requests until that time.

Law Enforcement Vehicles

- May need to reconsider replacing one of the deputy vehicles this year instead of waiting until next year considering the maintenance record of that vehicle over the last year.

CIP

- Lee Connor presented Council with an updated CIP and asked for questions. Discussion included plans for the new park land, fire department needs.

4.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council adjourned by consensus.

Benita Conrad, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

Janet Rackley, Town Clerk