

MINUTES
April 12, 2016
COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSESSION
1:00 P.M.

Town of Edisto Beach
Town Hall – Town Administrator's office
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

Present: Jane S. Darby, Mayor, Susan Hornsby, Mayor Pro Tempore, Jerome Kizer, Crawford Moore, and Patti Smyer, Council Members; *Quorum of Council Present.*

Town Administrator Iris Hill began the meeting by going over the projected budget and revenue. Administrator Hill and Budget/Financial Analyst Maxine Burton examine trends to come up with projected numbers. In the Police Department, Ocean Ridge Security pays for part of a police officer position. The Police Department is asking for \$47,215 to replace in-car videos. The department has been looking at body cameras, which will be paid for by the state. The current in-car cameras are L3, and are designed to work with L3 body cameras which are subpar. Administrator Hill then addressed the current millage, which is 20.23. She told Council they might consider increasing millage to 20.71 and use 2.39 in banked millage. She pointed out there was a line item in the budget to hire a part time person for special projects and parks and recreation. Administrator Hill has been working on sponsorships for events formally given ATAX funds.

General Fund expenditures were addressed next. A five percent merit increase is budgeted for the Financial Analyst. There is a garbage service increase. The General Liability insurance has been increased from one to two million dollars. Five thousand dollars was added to meetings and trainings. The department heads were polled and team building and time management were things they would like to have professional development seminars on. Administrator Hill said she had been in contact with AirMed Care network and they were interested in doing a Municipal Site Plan. A representative from the company will present information to Council at the May worksession.

Department heads were available to answer questions from Council concerning expenditures. George Brothers, Chief of Police, has asked for a 3% increase for one officer to act as an evidence custodian. He also proposes a 3% increase for the Sargent who has taken on additional duties. Chief Brothers told Council that the police radios and cameras are now on the depreciation schedule.

The Volunteer Fire Department President, Cameron Andrews, presented the EBVFD budget. He told Council that revenues stayed consistent, with \$25,000 - \$26,000 being collected yearly. The Fish Fry brings in approximately \$12,000 - \$13,000 per year. There are residual funds of approximately \$50,000. The Volunteers routinely make investments in people and programs in the area. Six thousand dollars is spent on meetings and trainings. Another \$6,000 is spent on uniforms and \$7,000 on turn-out gear. Ten thousand dollars has gone to upgrades to the fire station. Mr. Andrews was asked if the communications system needed upgrading. Mr. Andrews answered there was nothing on the market that would alleviate the on-going problem of the same address being given for all Wyndham calls.

Fire Chief Denney Conley presented the proposed Fire Department budget. Chief Conley would like to hire two full time fire fighters. Chief Conley was asked if there was enough in the budget to cover volunteer calls. The volunteer budget will cover any overages if they occur. Line items were included for a new washer and dryer and a new chainsaw.

Administrator Hill told Council that the Safety and Wellness Committee budget had added eye exams last year and this year hope to add hearing tests to employee physicals. Funds have also been included for pneumonia shots.

In the Public Works department, \$25,000 has been added for the Parks and Recreation department to hire a part time person for special events. Several Council members had questions about mosquito control. Councilwoman Smyer asked if there were enough of the chemicals to last through what was expected to be a busy season. Bob Doub, Public Works director, said he would look into it. Mr. Doub said he would look into it, and Iris Hill said she would see about twice a week spraying. Mr. Doub said there were still a few street signs that need replacing, as well as a few beach access, beach rules and riptide signs.

In the Utilities department on the water side, Mr. Doub is asking for continued merit increases for certifications for his employees. The water R&R fund is \$140,000, but will be adjusted for replacement of 2-inch pipes. Mayor Darby suggested keeping the water contingency fund at \$140,000.

On the sewer side of the Utilities department, Mr. Doub is asking for 5% increases for certifications for employees.

The Civic Center was next on the agenda. Colleton County will continue to contribute the same amount to the upkeep of the Civic Center and the Town will continue as property manager. The Town has explored the possibility of adding solar panels to the Civic Center due to the high cost of electricity for the facility. There is a substantial up-front cost for the installation and equipment but in 6 – 8 years the Town would see a return. The general consensus of Council was not to pursue solar panels at this time. There was discussion on rewording the rental agreements to include a flat fee for those who teach classes or a percentage, whichever is greater, instead of the percentage only as it is now.

Edisto Chamber of Commerce ~~Executive Director Lisa Harrell~~ addressed Council concerning the budget for the Chamber. The Edisto Marina has secured a Beautification Grant to modify areas around the Marina and Bay Creek Park.

Council then turned its attention to beach preservation and the fact that the Town is anticipating being close to the monetary goal. The fiscal year ends on June 30 and all funds (ATAX, Hospitality, etc.) will go to renourishment. As the Town goes forward, there should be less expensive projects in the future. In hindsight, not enough money was saved for the 2016 renourishment, but the Town will try and avoid that in the future. The permit for renourishment states the project is still on track to begin after turtle nesting season in the fall of this year. Council asked Administrator Hill what a realistic figure would be for saving for the future. Administrator Hill stated she would look into that.

The Wastewater Treatment plant received word that the effluent BODs have come in below the maximum for the past two months, but there still may be a cost. The rezoning of the lots may have to go to litigation, which would result in a cost to the Town. Tract M is still up in the air. The millage

cap and Business License Fee legislation may impact us financially as well. There is the possibility that the Town can bank millage. The Chamber could consider cutting its advertising budget and requesting less in ATAX funding. The Chamber has already planned to launch a new website. They also will be working on new ventures with real estate agencies and a new membership tiers.

Mayor Darby, on behalf of Council, thanked Administrator Hill and Maxine Burton for their hard work on the budget.

The media/public was informed of the date, time and location of the meeting on Friday, April 8, 2016.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk
May 12, 2016