



APEX TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016

Lance Olive, Mayor
Nicole L. Dozier, Mayor Pro Tempore
Eugene J. Schulze, William S. Jensen, Denise C. Wilkie,
and Wesley M. Moyer, Council Members
Drew Havens, Town Manager
Timothy L. Donnelly, Assistant Town Manager
Donna B. Hosch, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk
Laurie L. Hohe, Town Attorney

The Budget Workshop of the Apex Town Council scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2016, at 4:45 p.m. was held in the Second Floor Conference Room of Apex Town Hall, 73 Hunter Street

In attendance were Mayor Lance Olive, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole L. Dozier (4:51 p.m. arrival), and Council Members Eugene J. Schulze, William S. Jensen (5:14 p.m. arrival), Denise C. Wilkie, and Wesley M. Moyer

Also in attendance were Town Manager Drew Havens, Assistant Town Manager Tim Donnelly, Town Attorney Laurie L. Hohe, and Finance Director Vance Holloman

COMMENCEMENT

Mayor Olive called the meeting to order.

Mayor Olive asked if there were any modifications to the Agenda. Council Member Moyer requested the removal of Item 5 – Personnel since he'd already spoken with the Town Manager about this item.

Item 1. Special Appropriations

Mayor Olive stated there were questions from Council Members Schulze, Wilkie, and Moyer.

- **Farmer's Market:** Havens stated the Farmer's Market asked for \$30,000, a large portion of this to pay for staff. Havens revised this to \$5,000 since he did not believe we would want to pay for staff. Wilkie stated she's heard concerns from other non-profits that the Town is giving money to pay for staff. She felt \$5,000 was a fair amount. The Mayor stated later on in the year a process for Appropriations would be looked at and some rules put in place for fair treatment. Council was in agreement with \$5,000.
- **Apex Historical Society:** Schulze felt it important that we help to preserve our history and felt \$5,000 would be appropriate for the Society. Wilkie spoke about how the Society is having to fund their projects and pointed out they do not have paid staff. Havens explained the proposed \$0 appropriation as the Society did not follow the process and come before Council with a request. Appropriations to other organizations were read about in the paper and there was no formal contact with the Town until the Budget Hearing. Council felt \$5,000 would be a reasonable appropriation since there is value in this organization.

- **TRACS:** The proposed Budget showed a \$10,000 recommended appropriation instead of the requested \$15,000. Havens stated we have not audited TRACS; but according to what they have indicated, the more money we give, the more trips they will have available. Conversation ensued regarding taxi service vs. TRACS, and touched on the future Wake County transit service. Council was in agreement with \$10,000 and asking TRACS for formal answers to questions during the coming budget year to assist with future appropriations.
- **Transitions Life Care/Wake County Hospice:** Havens stated this organization primarily supports in-home care and is a non-profit. Dozier stated when people are able to be taken care of at home, it saves us money. Conversation ensued regarding the amount of appropriation, their asking for \$10,000 and \$5,000 being the proposed appropriation. There was no question there is a need, but is it the Town's responsibility for funding. We will be good stewards, but the organization also needs to do fundraisers, etc. to help with funding. Dozier stated a part of the reason why we have to do certain things is because the County and others are not doing their part. That includes funding these organizations. Council was in agreement with \$5,000 and again, putting in place a process which would make allocations easier.
- **Apex Downtown Business Association:** There was a bit of conversation surrounding the appointment of JC Knowles by past Mayor Weatherly as Apex Ambassador. Moyer stated that going forward we should think about this allocation in light of the money we already provide downtown. What would happen if Beaver Creek, for example, also started asking for Town funding. Mayor Olive stated maybe later on in the year the Finance Committee could look at the appropriations and the budgets of other municipalities in preparation for next year's budget. Council was in agreement with this idea and at keeping this year appropriation at \$10,000.
- **Downtown Advertising (Ambassador):** Havens stated this would be reimbursement to JC Knowles and that there has been no kind of accounting for the funding. It was suggested that this funding continue for Knowles this year and cease after he decides not to continue with the role as Ambassador. Council discussed Knowles submitting receipts for monies spent. Havens reminded Council that the Arts Council appropriation is given only upon their presenting receipts. This could be done with Knowles, and Havens clarified that Knowles is not an employee but was appointed by Weatherly. Council was in agreement with a \$5,000 appropriation with the Manager creating records for the spending.
- **Apex Arts Council:** The Mayor stated \$10,000 was requested and \$2,500 was recommended for the coming year. Havens stated he received guidance that this was possibly not the most appropriate use of public funds. Council talked about the types of events in which the Arts Council is involved. Mayor Olive stated we could appropriate funds but let them know we will be evaluating public art in

general. An evaluation would give us room to go up or down depending on what we find. Council was in agreement with \$2,500.

Mayor Olive stated all of the above appropriations would result in a net increase in the Budget.

Item 2. Expenditures from Increased Tax Revenue

Schulze raised questions on this subject. Havens stated he was asked could we spend \$.01 on public safety. Havens stated this would be done, with the remaining amount being spent on 'other' which was defined as vehicles, park improvements, IT infrastructure improvements, generators, and three positions. Schulze expressed concern for the Town doing things it should not be doing with a tax increase. He was struggling with the way the \$.38 tax rate was being split. Schulze gave the example that we should not provide WiFi downtown, and he questioned the Plans Examiner position. Havens stated he did not see WiFi downtown any differently than any other public space. Conversation ensued on the split of the spending, revenue neutral, the proposed positions, and the availability of monies for future opportunities. Consensus was to proceed with the \$.38 and Council speaking separately with Havens if needed. If anything changed, Havens would let Council know.

Item 3. Retention Pond Fee

Jensen stated this would be to change this from being tax based to fee based. Mayor Olive stated that because of time constraints, this could be discussed further at a future date.

Item 4. Savings for Future Projects

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business,

MAYOR OLIVE ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

Donna B. Hosch, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Lance Olive
Mayor