



TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET RETREAT

Friday, February 12, 2021 at 8:30 AM

~~Council Chamber at Apex Town Hall, 73 Hunter Street~~

THIS WAS A VIRTUAL MEETING

Council and Administration

Mayor: Jacques K. Gilbert | Mayor Pro Tem: Nicole L. Dozier

Council Members: Brett D. Gantt; Audra M. Killingsworth; Cheryl F. Stallings; Terry Mahaffey

Town Manager: Drew Havens | Assistant Town Managers: Shawn Purvis and Marty Stone

Town Clerk: Donna B. Hosch, MMC | Town Attorney: Laurie L. Hohe

In attendance were Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole L. Dozier, and Council Members Audra M. Killingsworth, Brett D. Gantt, Terry Mahaffey, and Cheryl F. Stallings. Also in attendance were interim Town Manager Ralph Clark, Assistant Town Manager Shawn Purvis and Marty Stone, Town Clerk Donna B. Hosch, Town Attorney Laurie L. Hohe, Deputy Town Clerk Tesa Silver, Budget and Management Analyst Amanda Grogan, Budget Technician Jessica Hoffman, Budget LSE Kathryn Paquet, Finance Director Vance Holloman, Inspections Director Rudy Baker, Economic Development Director Joanna Helms, Electric Utilities Director Eric Neumann, Fire Chief Keith McGee, Human Resources Director Mary Beth Manville, Director of Information Technology Erika Sacco, Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources Director John Brown, Planning Director Dianne Khin, Interim Police Chief Tony Godwin, Public Works and Transportation Director Jose Martinez, Water Resources Director Michael Deaton, and Communications Manager Stacie Galloway.

COMMENCEMENT

Mayor Gilbert called the meeting to order and called roll call for attendance. He welcomed everyone in attendance. Assistant Town Manager Purvis stated the purpose of the meeting, and explained the structure of the meeting.

Stormwater Utility

Assistant Town Manager Stone reviewed the current utility fee and the stormwater utility program. Council expressed concern over the current program and fee structure, at last year's meeting. Staff outlined three different options that could be utilized to address Council's concerns. Staff provided pros and cons for continuing to fund the Stormwater

Utility Program through the General Fund, by dedicating a percentage of funds annually, or by using a tiered fee structure.

Council Member Mahaffey made the motion to direct staff to move forward with setting up the utility fee starting January 1, 2022, to lower the tax rate by approximately half of the savings that would be provided, and to prepare the budget to direct half the other savings to ApexCares or The Affordable Housing Project as the needs direct. Council Member Killingsworth seconded the motion and added that the program should be reevaluated every 5 years. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote by roll call vote.

Sidewalk Needs

Staff provided a presentation on how sidewalk needs are identified and prioritized. Staff outlined the walking and biking school needs projects that are anticipated to begin in 2021. Staff will continue to look for additional funding sources to complete additional projects, and to communicate more information about these projects to the public through the Town's website.

Sidewalk Needs

Vance Holloman, Finance Director, explained how the Town would benefit financially by issuing \$5,000,000 in debt through private placement. This would allow the Town to complete half of its' paving projects. He explained why it would be beneficial to proceed with private placement opposed to issuing a bond. He explained the proposed bond referendum. Staff needs direction on how to proceed with projects and if Council would like to issue the \$5,000,000 in the current fiscal year or the next fiscal year.

Mayor Gilbert called a break.

Council came to a consensus to move forward with Staff's recommendations.

Financial Condition Review

Vance Holloman, Finance Director, reviewed the financial condition of the Town Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 including fund reserves and the Town's debt status.

Capital Project Prioritizations Results and Discussion

Staff stated that the Town created and received results from its' first Citizen Budget Priority Survey. The survey provided the public with an opportunity to provide input on the budget without coming to Town Hall. The survey increased transparency in how the budget is developed. Staff explained how the survey was conducted and the results received from the survey. Staff discussed areas identified within in the seven categories identified by staff: Housing Affordability, Economic Stability and Growth, Environmental Sustainability, Vibrant and Accessible Downtown, Public Safety, Recreation and Cultural Opportunities, and Transportation & Infrastructure.

Staff explained that the CIP is the planning mechanism that Council uses to allocate financial resources to achieve long term goals. Staff outlined the project prioritization results from Council for 34 projects.

Mayor Gilbert called a break.

Staff reviewed the strategic goals and objects, and outlined initiatives currently underway. Council reviewed the identified initiatives, and expressed the importance of continuing to be as accessible as possible for all citizens. Council identified priorities for next steps to be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business and without objection from Council, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting.

Tesa Silver CMC, NCCMC
Deputy Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor

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