



City Council Meeting
Mebane Municipal Building
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, April 15, 2013
4:00 p.m.

The Mebane City Council met for a Special Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2013 at the Municipal Building located at 106 E. Washington Street for the purpose of a budget retreat and to take action on the tax lien advertisement.

Council members Present:

Mayor Glendel Stephenson
Mayor Pro Tem Patty Philipps
Councilmember Tim Bradley
Councilmember Jill Auditori
Councilmember Ed Hooks
Councilmember Everette Greene

Also Present:

David Cheek, City Manager
Chris Rollins, Assistant City Manager
Charles Bateman, City Attorney
Darrell Russell, City Engineer
Montrena Hadley, Planning Director
Bob Louis, Fire Chief
Terrence Caldwell, Police Chief
Wayne Pore, Public Works Director
Cliff Ayscue, Chief Inspector
Amy Pendergraph, Arts & Community Ctr. Director
Dean Ray, Parks & Recreation Director
Dennis Hodge, WWTP Director
Stephanie Shaw, City Clerk

Absent:

None

Mayor Stephenson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Bradley gave the invocation.

The Council received a report from the Tax Collector that unpaid taxes that were liens on real property on February 11, 2013 amounted to \$231,625.56. By motion of Ms. Auditori, seconded by Ms. Philipps, the Council voted unanimously to advertise the tax liens on April 17, 2013.

Mr. Cheek presented a power point which reflected the retreat objectives. He stated named a few of the new programs and proposals including the previously approved Bike & Pedestrian Plan, a recreation master plan, a K-9 program for the police department, water tank maintenance and needed meter replacement. Mr. Cheek recommended no tax increase. He recommended fee changes for permits and inspections, pointing out that fees have not been changed in ten years. He stated that the privilege license fees that were amended last budget will continue into this year's budget. He stated that the General Assembly tax reforms could impact the budget significantly. He stated the tax base continues to grow and expected tax base growth for the coming year is 1-2% with an expected sales tax growth of 3-4%. Mr. Cheek addressed expenditures related to employees. He stated the health insurance rate increased by 6%, which is very manageable, however the workers comp rates increased 35%. He recommended a 3% cola and performance pay increase. Expenditures related to Capital Outlays were listed as 5 police cars, fire truck and ATV, replacement mower, street sweeper, garbage truck, recreation truck and mower, and replacement of the MACC gym floor and tile floors. Mr. Cheek recommended no rate increase for water and sewer. He stated a 3% increase in water and sewer usage is projected. He briefly discussed some of the major projects which would impact the utility budget.

Chief Caldwell spoke concerning the Police department budget which increased 3.7% from last year. He requested replacement of 5 police vehicles based on the 100,000 mile replacement plan approved by the Council in 2008. He also spoke about his request to add a K-9 program. He stated the program would be used for narcotics detention, human tracking, building and area searches, evidence recovery and handler protection. The program would have a start up cost of \$54,000 which would include purchase of the two K-9s and training for the K-9s and handlers, along with kennels. The annual operational cost for the K-9s would be approximately \$10,000. Chief Caldwell continued with discussion of the police departments 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He stated within that plan are requests for continued replacement of police vehicles, patrol rifles, an all-terrain vehicle and a police firing range.

Mr. Ray addressed budget needs for the Recreation and Parks department. He stated in the proposed 2013-2014 budget he is requesting a new mower, replacement of a staff truck, additional lighting at the tennis courts, and a 16 space parking lot for the Holt Street Park. He said requests within his 5-Year CIP are replacement of lighting at the Walker and Youth Fields, Lake Michael Dam repair, and purchase of land for future needs of recreation and parks for the city.

Chief Louis spoke concerning the Fire department budget. He requested in this year's budget a new pumper/tanker to replace existing apparatus and to add an ATV to their fleet for EMS and trauma injuries at special events in largely populated areas and wooded areas. Chief Louis also spoke concerning the fire departments 5-Year CIP which included replacing the Captains vehicle used for fire prevention, replacing SCBA bottles and refurbishing 38 packs, purchasing remaining MDT's and software to switch to CAD dispatch. Also included in the CIP was replacement of pumper/tanker-Engine-35 (existing apparatus), pumper/tanker-Engine-33 (existing apparatus) and a thermal imaging camera for Engine-32. Chief Louis explained that recently Engine 35 has broken down 5 times in the last month. He stated it may be necessary to include replacing two engines in this year's budget and remove it from the 5-year plan due to the immediate need. Mr. Cheek stated a 5-10 year financing plan would be the best way to purchase both trucks and he would look into placing both trucks in this year's budget.

Mayor Stephenson called for a dinner break.

Mayor Stephenson called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Cheek spoke about the four major overall CIP's, some of which have already begun and will continue over the next 5 years. He stated they are the Southside Fire Station, Forest Ridge Pump Station replacement, Water Plant upgrade and Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

Mr. Cheek spoke of simplifying the budget by reducing the number of budgetary departments from thirty-two to fifteen.

Mr. Rollins reported that Alley, Williams, Carmen & King, Inc has been working on GIS (geographic information systems) mapping for the City of Mebane for some time, however those maps have not been utilized by city staff until recently. He demonstrated how the GIS system works and explained how city staff will greatly benefit from using the system.

Mr. Ayscue presented a plan to change the fees for building inspections and permits. He stated he has researched surrounding municipal and county fees and based on that research he recommends increasing Mebane's minimum fees by \$10 which would bring us in line with the county, along with increasing existing fees he stated he has added new fees.

Mr. Cheek stated he has been looking at the fee schedule as a whole and he will bring a recommendation for changes at the May meeting.

Mr. Rollins addressed needs within the Public Works department budget. Meter replacement to radio reads and commercial/industrial meter testing was included in this year's budget. Water tank maintenance is also an important item that was included. He recommended contracting with a company that would repair and maintain the tank.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Glendel Stephenson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stephanie W. Shaw, City Clerk

