

MEBANE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MEBANE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
APRIL 23, 2012

Members Present: Tim Bradley Jill Auditori Patty Philipps Ed Hooks
Members Absent: Everette Greene

Mayor Glendel Stephenson called the special meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the conference area of the Mebane Municipal Building for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2012-2013 budget.

City Manager Robert Wilson gave a few brief opening remarks.

Sandy Bagby, Landscape Beautification Coordinator, spoke concerning ongoing beautification plans around the city and proposed plans and costs for the upcoming fiscal year. City Engineer Darrell Russell spoke concerning proposed plans for the entire downtown area. Pam Biggs, Owner of Bella Bleu Salon & Spa located on N. 4th Street shared suggestions and asked questions concerning the proposed plans. Joy Albright, Owner of Clay Street Printing also gave suggestions concerning proposed planters. She also requested keeping any plans uniform throughout the city and to include all of downtown not only Fourth Street. No formal action was taken.

Ron Oakley, President of the Mebane Historical Society, presented to Council the Mebane Historical Museum's proposed 2012-2013 budget. Mr. Oakley stated they are requesting that the City fund their Directors salary in the amount of \$28,000. The Council discussed the request. No formal action was taken.

City Manager Robert Wilson spoke concerning his recommendations for the upcoming budget year. He stated no increase in the tax rate is proposed. He stated he is proposing a 3% salary increase for all employees. He proposed hiring 4 new employee positions, 2 in Public Works and 2 in Police Department. On behalf of HR Director, Esther Bennett, he presented a request for an Employee Assistance Counseling Program (EACP) for all employees. No formal action was taken.

Finance Officer David Cheek discussed the need for upgrades within the cities IT network and website. Mr. Cheek proposed contracting with Wells Fargo to have them begin handling the water/sewer billing. He explained that contracting with Wells Fargo would also allow customers to begin utilizing online payments as well as allowing the city to begin accepting debit card transactions. He stated staff is still pursuing the best option towards becoming paperless with agendas/packets. Mr. Cheek presented a proposal for change in privilege license fees. He stated a new privilege license ordinance and fee schedule would be presented at the May meeting. No formal action was taken.

City Manager Robert Wilson stated no changes are proposed within the Planning & Zoning Department or in the Inspections Department.

Police Chief Terry Caldwell presented his request to Council. Chief Caldwell urged Council to keep public safety in mind. He stated his request to hire 4 new positions within the Police Department, 2 patrol personnel, 1 criminal investigator and 1 support services supervisor. He requested 5 new vehicles, stating that 7 of their current vehicles are or are close to reaching over 105,000 miles. No formal action was taken.

Fire Chief Bob Louis presented his request including the cost associated with the design for the new fire station, 96" Smart board for training purposes, 20 Motorola radios and the replacement of 2 base stations for the radios, a shed/carport for the Fire Safety trailer, 1 vehicle to replace the Chief's vehicle and a Highway Vehicle Stabilization kit. Chief Louis also stated the need for wildland suppression shirts for his firefighters. Chief Louis stated the Mebane Fire Department's Executive Board has requested that the city raise the volunteers pay per call from \$6 per call to \$8 per call. No formal action was taken.

Parks & Recreation Director Dean Ray presented his request which included the replacement of the pontoon boat motor, a reel lawnmower and the renovation of the tennis court lights. He also stated some discussion has taken place with staff concerning raising the youth sports fees. No formal action was taken.

Arts & Community Center Director Amy Pendergraph requested to change out the lights in the gym. No formal action was taken.

Public Works Director Jimmy Jobe and City Engineer Darrell Russell addressed the city's infrastructure needs. Mr. Jobe requested an addition to the built onto the Public Works building to meet the needs due to growth of staff over many years. Mr. Jobe also requested to hire 2 employees. No formal action was taken.

Doreen Anderson, 1403 Firestone Drive, requested Council to consider extending sidewalks to the Governors Green subdivision.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Director Dennis Hodge and City Engineer Darrell Russell addressed various improvements needed to meet the proposed and final Lake Jordan Nutrient Removal Standards. No formal action was taken.

City Manager Robert Wilson gave brief closing remarks. Council expressed they would like to have a budget work session held within their next regular monthly meeting in May. Mr. Wilson agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Stephanie W. Shaw, City Clerk

Glendel Stephenson, Mayor