



MINUTES

**Town of Weaverville
State of North Carolina**

**Town Council Budget Workshop
Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

The Town Council for the Town of Weaverville met for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers within Weaverville Town Hall at 30 South Main Street, Weaverville, North Carolina.

Council members present were: Mayor Al Root, Vice Mayor/Councilman John Penley, Councilwoman Dottie Sherrill, Councilman Doug Jackson, Councilman Andrew Nagle and Councilman Patrick Fitzsimmons.

Staff present was: Town Manager Selena Coffey, Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson, Town Clerk Derek Huninghake, Police Chief Alan Wyatt, Fire Chief Ted Williams, Town Planner James Eller, Finance Officer Tonya Dozier and Public Works Director Dale Pennell.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Al Root called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Background

Town Manager Selena Coffey opened the meeting by giving an overview of the Town's background on taxes. Currently, the Town's tax collection rate is 97.23% based on the current tax rate of \$0.38 per \$100 valuation. The Town's tax history, which is shown by a chart in the power point, shows that the current tax rate is lower now than in 2014. This chart is attached in the power point.

3. General Fund Revenue/ Expenditures

Town Manager Selena Coffey covered the General Fund FY 2018 Projections compared to the FY 2018 budget, which strongly rely on the revaluation by Buncombe County. Some of the major revenue sources are projected to be lower and higher than budgeted for, but the good thing is after calculating them all up the Town is still in the positive. She mentioned that the Town has over \$3 million in available Fund Balance after Council's fund balance policy of 40%, which is more than double the amount targeted for by Town Council. Some of the main expenditures that Town Manager Coffey highlighted were an increase in health insurance, \$150,000 budgeted for three additional firefighters, \$300,000 budgeted for year 3 of the Streets Improvement Plan, Greenways match of \$60,000 re-appropriated to FY2019 and capital equipment of \$216,900 from departmental requests. The whole list of General Fund revenues and expenditures is on the attached power point.

4. Water Fund Revenue/ Expenditures

Town Manager Selena Coffey covered the Water Fund FY 2018 Projections compared to the FY 2018 budget. All of the major revenue sources for the water fund that are projected to be higher than budgeted for are water revenue, water tap revenue and capacity depletion fees. There will also be revenue from system development fees listed on here, but it hasn't been approved yet. The key expenditures that the Town Manager highlighted were increase in health insurance, security upgrades and capital requests of \$362,100 from departmental requests.

5. Considerations

Town Manager Selena Coffey highlighted some considerations that the Mayor and Town Council need to keep in mind going forward. The considerations were 1.) Updating the comprehensive land use plan, whether in-house or to hire a consultant and when it will be completed, 2.) Costs of the community center project, 3.) The former bus garage needs to replace the roof and lighting, but she doesn't want to budget for this if we are going to sell the property, 4.) Expansion of the water plant, 5.) Strategic Plan implications and 6.) Recreation Master Plan adoption implications. She asked Council to think of some action steps to give her direction to which way they want to go moving forward.

6. Questions/ Discussion

Councilman Jackson mentioned that updating the land use comprehensive plan should go together with the strategic plan and recreation master plan.

Councilman Nagle commented about the annual financial audit by Gould Killian and was disturbed when they said they wouldn't be able to find fraud. He wants Council to consider if the Town should do a more in-depth audit.

Mayor Root noted that since the available fund balance is over the targeted amount, Council may want to look at using this for an investment on the water plant expansion and community center.

Councilman Jackson asked about the process of applying for grants and asked if we might be missing some opportunities.

Town Manager Coffey asked Council what they felt was the best decision for the old bus garage.

Councilman Nagle commented that we should look to see how much we can sell it for, but it needs to be more than the appraisal and cover the cost for another storage building.

7. Next Steps

Town Manager Selena Coffey mentioned that the next step in the budget process will be to give an initial draft budget presentation to Town Council on April 16 at 7 pm at the Town Council meeting. The next budget workshop is scheduled for April 23 at 6pm in the Training Room at the Weaverville Fire Department.

8. Adjournment

Councilwoman Sherrill made the motion to adjourn; Councilman Penley seconded and all voted to adjourn the Council's meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Derek K. Huninghake
Derek K. Huninghake, Town Clerk