



MINUTES

**Town of Weaverville
State of North Carolina**

**Town Council Workshop
Tuesday, May 17, 2022**

The Town Council for the Town of Weaverville met remotely for its regularly monthly workshop on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. remotely via zoom.

Councilmembers present remotely were Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons, Vice Mayor Jeff McKenna, and Councilmembers Doug Jackson, Andrew Nagle, John Chase, Catherine Cordell and Michele Wood.

Staff members present remotely were: Town Manager Selena Coffey, Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson, Clerk/Planning Director James Eller, Finance Officer Tonya Dozier, Public Works Director Dale Pennell, Water Superintendent Trent Duncan, Police Chief Ron Davis and Fire Marshal Kile Davis.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Overview of Proposed Budget

Town Manager Coffey provided Town Council with an overview of the proposed budget including general fund revenue, general fund expenditures, water fund revenue and water fund expenditures. Ms. Coffey noted that general fund budget did include (1) a tiered approach to merit increased with the lower employee grades receiving up to 7%, the middle employee grades receiving up to 5%, and the upper employee grades receiving up to 3%.; (2) a 10% increase in employee insurance with dependent coverage uncertain; (3) and no proposed increase in tax rate. Individual items for various town departments were also discussed. Ms. Coffey also noted that the water fund did include a 3% water rate increase and had a substantial appropriation of fund balance due to water supply resiliency projects and a general increase in most materials and supplies.

3. Town Council Discussion

Councilmember Nagle proposed that ARP funds be allotted toward water supply resiliency projects.

Councilmember Jackson suggested that the Planning/Clerk position should be addressed. The reconfiguration of Clerk duties to free capacity in the Planning Department became the consensus of Council.

Mr. Duncan spoke to the advantages of converting to the usage of chlorine gas for water production.

Mr. Pennell spoke regarding the proposed totter garbage cans and a fee for the cans to be placed on water bills.

Councilmember Cordell noted that the admin/finance department may be too lean. While this concern was shared, there was not consensus on adding a human resources/benefits position at this time.

Being questioned by Vice Mayor McKenna, Mr. Kile Davis, Fire Marshal (on behalf of Chief Williams) spoke regarding the Fire Departments ISO rating. Mr. Davis also spoke to the staffing level which may affect the rating and current employment vacancies at the Fire Department.

Councilmember Cordell noted that Town Council is getting blamed for issues at the Fire Department. Councilmember Nagle noted that he had requested how much a fire fighter would need to be paid to be recruited and maintained with the Town but that that information had not been received.

4. Adjournment.

Councilmember Cordell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Wood seconded the motion. Mayor Fitsimmons, Vice Mayor McKenna and Councilmembers Chase, Jackson and Nagle also voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.



James Eller, Town Clerk