

**Walterboro City Council
Work Session
Budget Committee Meeting
April 28, 2015
4:00 P.M.**

Present were:

Budget Committee Members: Tom Lohr - Chairman, James Broderick and Jimmy Syfrett.

Also Present were:

Mayor Bill Young, Council Member Paul Siegel, Council Member Bobby Bonds, City Manager Jeff Molinari, City Clerk Betty Hudson, Finance Office Manager Amy Risher. Council Member Judy Bridge was absent.

Present in the Audience:

Chief Wade Marvin, Wayne Crosby, Michelle Strickland, David Dodd, Wayne Lake, Charlie Chewning, Adam Davis and George Salsberry from the Press and Standard newspaper.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.

Chairman Tom Lohr called the meeting to order and introduced City Manager Molinari to provide a breakdown of all the changes in all the departments for the 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Lohr explained that Mr. Molinari had already provided a similar copy of the breakdown to the Budget Committee Members - Council Members Syfrett, Broderick and Lohr - at a previous meeting. He noted that there would be continual revisions of the budget as Mr. Molinari checks back with his department heads.

Mr. Molinari reported that he had added more detail to the budget summary. He said, I will use the same format as I did last year - go to each department highlighting any changes. He further stated, I have asked each of the department managers to be here just in case you have any questions on any specific line items or anything that requires a little more detail information. He then directed Council's attention to the budget summary sheets. A copy of this detailed summary was provided to each Council Member.

Mr. Molinari then discussed the budget summary and gave the following highlights:

1) Looking at the total city budget of approximately \$10,896,000, this includes both the general fund and the enterprise fund, which is our water and sewer operations.

2) There will be no property tax increase, and no increase in business licenses.

3) There will be a 5% water rate increase and a 5% sewer rate increase. We will talk about that in more detail a little later, but that is there to primarily pay for disposing of sludge at the wastewater treatment plant.

4) Mr. Molinari reported that the City will have some increases that are affecting both employees and the City. As of January 1, 2016, the City will be looking at a 3.4% increase in health insurance premiums for both the City and employees.

5) The City will also have some increases for both the South Carolina Retirement System and Police Officers and Fireman Retirement System. As you are aware, the State Retirement System has been steadily increasing both the employee and employer share over time. Beginning July 1, 2015, we will see the employee's share increasing from 8% to 8.16% and the City's share increasing from 10.91% to 11.06%.

6) The Police Officers Retirement System is also going up effective July 1, 2015. Employees' share will increase from 8.41% to 8.74% and the City's share will increase from 13.41% to 14.14%.

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7) Mr. Molinari stated that as a result of those increases, as well as to try to keep up our salaries and be competitive as employers, I am recommending a 2% cost of living adjustment across the board for City employees.

Mr. Molinari then brought attention to the budget changes for each of the City departments, as follows:

Mayor and City Council

Status quo.

City Manager

Status quo.

Finance Department

We are moving a few things around in there. We will talk about that as we go through the budget. The biggest project we have in there is to paint the annex building. As you are aware, that building is in dire need of a paint job.

Public Works

We are looking at purchasing a new front loader with a tink bucket. This is what we use to collect yard debris. This piece of equipment is projected to cost about \$123,000. Currently, we are using a 2009 model, and we have no backup in place.

Planning & Codes Department

Status quo.

Police Department

We are planning to purchase three new vehicles - 2 patrol vehicles and 1 car.

Judicial Department

Status quo.

Fire Department

We plan to add three (3) additional firefighters. This will give us 4 firefighters who are on duty at all times. This will allow us to meet the OSHA requirement of two in and two out.

Sanitation Department

Status quo.

Parks Department

This department is looking to purchase a new Ford F-250 truck.

Tourism Department

Status quo.

Water

Mr. Molinari stated, we are looking at adding one new technician. This is actually a reclassification. We are actually taking a part-time technician on the sewer side and elevating that position to a full time water technician.

Utility Support

Status quo.

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Sewer Department

There will be an increase in sludge disposal costs.

Sewer Support

Status quo.

Mr. Molinari then directed the members attention to the budget books prepared by staff, starting on page 1. He said this gives you a breakdown of the projected expenditures for each department. For this year, we are looking at expenditures of \$7,378,848. Notice on the second to last line, transfers from General Fund Balance are \$161,739. I am recommending that we utilize the fund balance to help defray the costs associated with some of our capital purchases. As you are aware from the last audit that was done, the City fund balance is in a very strong position. Our fund balance is a little over \$4,000,000, which represents over 55% of our general fund expenditures, which is very good. Amy has recently done some projections on where we are looking the end of this fiscal year. The department managers have done an excellent job keeping their respective departments in line. I suspect that, unless we have some unforeseen things come up, a combination of expenditures under budget or some revenues coming in that are over what we are anticipating, I think we are going to add to that fund balance when the audit is delivered to City Council in either December or January of next year.

With regard to the Enterprise fund, the water and sewer operation, Mr. Molinari said you'll see the Sewer Support Department. This is not necessarily a new department, but from a budgeting standpoint, in the last budget we transferred 5 positions that were being paid out of the general fund to the facility fund. These are positions that are heavily involved in sewer operations, as a way to take some pressure off the general fund.

General Fund Revenue - Property tax revenue is looking good. There is a projected increase of \$150,000. This is based on anticipation collections at the end of this fiscal year. The City levies a millage rate of 88 mills which includes the debt service on the parks rehabilitation that was done as well as fire apparatus that was purchased in 2011. We also have 2.86 mills that are dedicated to the purpose of radios to bring the City up to standard. The fines and fees we are projecting are \$200,000. State shared revenue, it looks like from the budget coming out of the senate finance committee, shows the local government fund equal to what it was last year. So, we are comfortable there that we will receive \$116,000 and that number will remain the same.

Business Licenses - As you are aware, there are some bills that have been introduced in the legislature looking for a variety of ways to reduce the capacity of the City to collect business licenses. I don't anticipate anything happening this year, but it is something we need to keep our eyes on. I am comfortable with what we have forecasted here.

Franchise Revenue - We are looking good there. Mr. Molinari explained that franchise fees are paid by SCE&G, and Coastal Electric. 5% of their revenue goes back to the City. We also have cable franchise and PRTC, and those are also 5%.

Miscellaneous Revenue- This is basically about \$35,000 of State A-Tax money. What the state statute mandates is that the first \$25,000 that we collect goes into the General Fund, and then another 5% goes into the General Fund. This is about \$35,000. We also have interest in there.

Solid Waste Collection Fees - You will see a little bit of a down turn there. That is simply a reflection of a decrease in commercial customers and that number is shown there.

Council Member Broderick then asked when you have a deficit shown in that projected budget, would you mind explaining that. Mr. Molinari explained that number is a difference

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between the budgeted amount 2014-2015 and what we are projecting. Taking miscellaneous revenue, we had \$85,000 budgeted and we are projecting \$72,000.

When questioned by Council Member Broderick on what could have caused this difference, Mr. Molinari explained that the solid waste collection fee which is down \$17,000 is simply a reflection of losing some commercial customers.

Mr. Molinari explained that Amy has spread sheets that she uses to track the monthly property tax credit. We have noticed a lot of movement in that regard. Some months you will see a significant increase and in other months you will see a significant increase. The number you see in here is \$11,645, which is simply what we are projecting based on our collection history so far this year.

Mr. Molinari then briefly went over the account transfers. Under Local A-Tax and Local Hospitality transfers, we are transferring \$90,000. The state statute allows us to use the Local A-Tax and Hospitality Tax to defray expenses associated with providing police and fire protection for tourism related facilities.

Mayor Young then asked about transfers to the Utility Fund. Mr. Molinari answered that he would be very interested in the transfers. It would free up the capacity on the Enterprise side for us to look at some capital improvements that we talked about as far as increasing capacity, sludge disposal and things of that nature. The reality of it is that we are still very dependent upon that transfer. To your point, the less money that we transfer to this fund, the more help we will have with the enterprise.

Enterprise Revenue - Mr. Molinari noted that there is an increase in water sales, which is related to the proposed 5% increase. Mr. Molinari stated as he was looking at the water rates for other municipalities, he found that the City of Walterboro has the lowest water rates in the state and that our sewer rate is in the bottom 15 percentile. We are projecting \$87,000 in water taps and \$3,000 in miscellaneous interest.

On the sewer side, we are projecting an increase of \$1.238 million. We also see an increase in sewer taps and testing. Overall, I think that our revenue looks really good.

Mayor Young then asked about the equipment for the wastewater treatment plant. He asked, are we looking at using that 5% increase to pay off as a revenue bond, how are we looking at this? Mr. Molinari answered, actually, where the majority of that is going to go is toward the increased costs associated with having to use either a temporary screw press or belt press, and also the cost of transporting it (sludge) to the landfill and disposal costs. Mayor Young then said, so that's not going to pay off money used to buy a screw press. Mr. Molinari answered, exactly, and that's kind of the next step. He further stated, a couple of months ago City Council approved a PER for what's now AECOM. Wayne and I just received a draft of that report the other day, and Wayne and I are going to be sitting down and talking with them on Thursday. We will report back to Council in a couple of weeks on that. Mayor Young then said, so this isn't money set aside to pay back money that we would borrow to buy the screw press? Mr. Molinari again answered, exactly, this is just to get us through the year and then what we are looking at, and I just scanned over the PER from AECOM, but what they were looking at was a total cost of about \$3,000,000 and about \$600,000 of that would be Engineering Costs, and I have some ideas as far as how to pay for the engineering versus the capital cost. I will say this, a couple of months ago when the Mayor and James Broderick were up in Washington, they met with the legislative delegation, talked about our infrastructure needs on the Wastewater Treatment side. In fact, we actually had a new staffer from Lindsey Graham's office come by today and the Mayor and I had an opportunity to meet him, and we also made a pitch. What we are looking at there is potentially some EDA and USDA funds to try and defray the cost of those

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capital improvements as much as we can. My instructions to Wayne in going through the budget, were let's look at right now what we need to do to get through this next year, and let's look at the capital side separate and see what we can do as far as putting together a package where we can position ourselves well for getting grant funds to defray those costs.

Mr. Molinari then directed the group's attention to the General Budget. The highlights were as follows:

Mayor and City Council

Status quo. The only real changes made was in travel. I set that at \$7,500. That's simply a reflection of what we are spending. If that changes in the future, we can adjust that number. We also have contractual services and legal services - City Attorney. I brought that down by \$5,000. This is based on prior experience.

City Manager's Budget

Status quo. Not a lot of changes here.

Finance Department

City Manager Molinari stated that he did want to highlight a couple of things in this budget. As you are aware, Bill Floyd will be retiring at the end of June, so we shifted some things around. Amy Risher will assume the title of Finance Director as of July 1, 2015. Basically, what we are doing is taking her current position, the Finance Office Manager, and turning that into the Clerk Cashier position, based on Amy's new workload and what she needs. I'd also like to highlight as you are getting into the line items, item 126 Building Maintenance. As I said, the Annex Building next door is in dire need of painting. And you will also see under Employee Leasing - that line item is now zero - that was how we billed for contracting with Bill Floyd.

Under contractual services, you see a slight increase, Bill Floyd has requested to come back and help out with the audit, since his name is on all the documents.

Public Works

There are no new position changes. The only significant item we have in here is a capital item to look at purchasing a new front loader for yard debris collection. We are projecting that piece of equipment will cost \$123,000.

Planning and Codes

This is totally status quo. In fact, we are down about \$10,000 from last year.

Police

As you are aware, we are still in the process of transitioning from Public Safety to separate police and fire functions. One of the things that Amy did earlier this fiscal year, was separate the public safety department into separate police and fire budgets. Both Wayne and Wade have done a good job of working together. When asked by the Mayor if we are fully staffed in the police department, it was noted that we have 3 officers projected to go to the police academy.

Mr. Molinari stated that the department plans to purchase three new police vehicles. He noted that when he went over the budget with Council Member Bonds, he asked what has our history been for the past five of six years in purchasing new vehicles. Mr. Molinari then said he would run through this, just for your information.

Last year - we purchased 3 new vehicles. We were also able to purchase a used vehicle because we were able to stretch those dollars out.

In 2013-2014, the City purchased 3 new police vehicles.

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In 2012-2013, the City purchased 5 new vehicles.

In 2011-2012, the City did not purchase any new police vehicles. There was just a new fire pickup.

In 2010-2011, the City purchased 3 new vehicles.

In 2009-2010, the City purchased 3 new vehicles.

Council Member Broderick asked how many vehicles were in the City's fleet. Mr. Molinari responded that we have 31 vehicles in our fleet.

Council Member Bonds then asked the City Manager, where do we stand on body cameras. City Manager Molinari responded that back in December, the Chief ordered 4 body cameras that we could test out. The thing about these cameras is that the software that they use is compatible with the AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator) software that City Council authorized last year. My understanding is that we are still waiting on those cameras. The plan was to try out those 4 cameras, work out any kinks and if we are pleased with them, then we would move forward with outfitting the entire department. I think the total cost to outfit the department is about \$10,000 or \$11,000.

Council Member Bonds then asked, if we are pleased with the camera, is there something we can do about the body cameras in this budget year? Mr. Molinari responded that what he suggested to the Chief was that if we can get these cameras in this fiscal year, we've got enough capacity in Wade's budget for this year that we could just pay for them. Keep it out of the budget and be done with it. So, that's what I'd like to do.

Mr. Molinari then stated, Mr. Mayor, I know there has been some discussion at the Municipal Association level as far as the General Assembly trying to find potentially some relief to help defray expenses. I know there has been some conversation, especially for cities that have a large balance built up in the Victim Assistance Fund, that cities could use those funds to buy body cameras. Unfortunately, for us that is not the case.

Mayor Young then said that the Municipal Association's stand is that they support body cameras throughout the state. They think that is a good idea, but they also take the stand that we don't want an unfunded mandate. If they are going to make a law that we have to have them, then they need to help pay for them. So, they are looking for ways to accommodate that. Mayor Young then stated, Jeff has told me that some cities have huge amounts of Victim Assistance money that they don't use, and so they were affectable. If you had that money left over, they were going to allow them to spend that on cameras, but we don't have any funds left over, so it wouldn't help us. Small cities, generally do not tend to have as much of those funds.

Judicial Department

You will notice that in Finance as well as Judicial, is that Amy has asked for some new chairs. So you will see under office supply that we got some new chairs, and it is definitely needed.

Fire

In the Fire budget, we are proposing three (3) new positions. When I went through the budget with the Fire Chief, he also put in there a new pumper, and I asked him what is your biggest need right now and he answered I need 3 new firefighters. What my plan is in moving forward, not this coming budget year, but the year after, is to look at purchasing a new pumper. Hopefully, interest rates will still be favorable. It will have to be something we can finance.

Mr. Molinari then asked Fire Chief Lake to mention to Council the grant application he is working on. Chief Wayne Lake then told Council that our air purification system is about 27 or 28 years old. That's what we use to put air in the cylinders. We have been having a lot of problems with it passing CO tests and doing a lot of maintenance on it because of the age. It has been a good

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system and it has lasted a long time. Also, our SCBA Units (we have 22 plus some spares) are getting antiquated as well. NFPA has certain specifications that are supposed to be met. They passed the tests, so we can continue to use them, but we are not compatible with the County as part of our Mutual Aid agreement with them. In the event we have a big fire or something, then we have to be able to use each other's equipment. Also, the cylinders are limited to 30 minutes. Newer ones are 45 to 60 minutes because of the design of the cylinders. It's lighter weight and made up of a different type of material. The lighter weight would save our backs, give us more working time and escape time, which is most important. With all that being said, if we had the pumper this year, then next year that's what I would be asking for.

Chief Lake further stated that the City Manager and I were talking about grant opportunities. We put in for a FEMA grant to replace the air purification system as well as the SCBA units. The grant is for \$187,000 or \$188,000. We went to the State Legislative Meeting in Columbia at the Firefighters Association Meeting, and we happened to sit beside Ms. Rena Brown, who is the Special Coordinator for Senator Lindsey Graham's Office. She gave us her business card and we started talking about the grant and she said to come by her office. So, we met with her the following week and gave her all our information about the grant along with some photos of the system. She forwarded all that information to Senator Lindsey Graham. He wrote FEMA a letter supporting the grant. I don't know if we are going to get it or not. He also encouraged us that if we didn't get the grant, to apply again next year.

When questioned by Council Member Broderick on the cost for a new fire pumper truck, City Manager Molinari said we are looking at probably \$320,000.

Mr. Bonds pointed out that the City got its ladder truck at a great deal because somebody was going bankrupt. He then asked, are we exploring looking at used trucks or other sources instead of just a new one? Mr. Molinari responded, I will refer to the Chief on that, but certainly we will do whatever we have to.

Chief Lake responded, we were extremely fortunate to get the ladder truck. Now, ladder trucks are not utilized as much by the cities as pumpers. Pumpers roll all the time. That's why they get an enormous amount of mileage as well as wear and tear on them, not only through actually fire fighting time.

When questioned by Mayor Young on how old is our newest pumper, Chief Lake responded that our newest pumper is 11 years old. Our oldest one is a 1989 - then we have a 1999 and then we have a 2011 pumper. What's interesting is our 1989 pumper has right at 60,000 miles. The 1999 pumper has 20,000 miles more. Part of the reason for the distance we are having to travel is because we have spread our stations out. So, on every call, they have to travel further. So, that's an enormous amount of miles they are getting on them.

Chief Lake then said, we did have an option that I shared with the City Manager. Our plan was to buy a new truck, with all new equipment. That way, we could put it right into service, then we could take our oldest piece of equipment and move it into a reserve status, in the event that one of our trucks goes out of service. We could move that truck from reserve and put it as a first run truck. We would get credit from ISO for that, which is always an added benefit. If we have a plan B, then plan B would be that we don't purchase the new equipment right now, we would just buy the pumper. Because we are getting like 25 or 30 years out of a piece of equipment, to me it makes more sense to buy new. We would have a warranty on it if anything goes wrong.

Chief Lake pointed out that when the City bought the ladder truck we had a very limited warranty. We just recently spent quite a bit on money on some repairs to the ladder truck because we didn't have a warranty to fall back on. I would suggest that we purchase the pumper definitely

brand new, because of, again, the warranty. He stated that warranties do pay off for some things.

Chief Lake then said, if Council feels that it needs to go ahead and look at the pumper option, then the City Manager could work on that. Plan B would simply be to buy a new pumper, and we will utilize all the equipment off our oldest piece of equipment. As money becomes available, we would restock that truck and put it back into reserve status.

Council Member Broderick then asked what would be the cost in doing that? Mr. Lake responded, you are looking at probably knocking off about \$60,000 or \$65,000 off the cost of the pumper. Again, those numbers are not bid numbers because when you bid things out, sometimes you get a better deal. This was utilizing the company that we have most of our apparatus with right now. They have a local repair shop here right now. But that's not a bid - it might come in a little bit cheaper when you bid it out.

Council Member Broderick then asked, how has the City typically funded large pieces of equipment like this in the past? I mean, have we done a lease purchase or have we saved money and then purchased them? City Manager Molinari responded that the last piece of equipment that we purchased back in 2011 was actually a part of the General Obligation debt that the City issued. We had it lumped in with what we paid for the parks' rehabilitation. Actually, when we get to the tail end of the budget, you'll see all that debt, how much we are paying each year and when we will have it paid off. For what Wayne was talking about, like I said, if interest rates continue to stay favorable, financing something like that over a 5-year period would not be a significant hit.

Mayor Young added, as long as we keep stuff, we probably don't need to start off with it too old, because once we buy something, we keep it a long time.

Chief Lake then said, part of our problem in the past was lack of maintenance. You can't have anything and not take care of it. The guys do their part, but if something breaks, you've got to fix it. You can do preventive maintenance, as well. That's why we really get a lot of mileage out of our stuff, because we have good people who try to take care of our equipment.

Sanitation

Mr. Molinari announced, there isn't really anything to mention here.

Parks Department

City Manager Molinari stated, we are currently fully staffed. We've got one capital item in this budget, and that is a new Ford F-250 pickup truck. The F-250 we have right now is a 2003 and has a little less than 200,000 miles. I do want to mention one thing about the Parks budget - Council Member Broderick is going to be talking about the community garden tonight. What I suggested to him is that any expenses that are associated with the community garden we can fold that into the Parks Department. You are not looking at a significant amount there - basically water and maintenance we have to do.

Council Member Lohr then asked Mr. Molinari, have you heard of any problems or concerns that we had at one point when the parks first opened up, as far as a lot of people there and maybe lacking in organization. Mr. Molinari responded, that's a good question and is a work in progress. One of the conversations we have had, I think back in the fall, we talked about devising some rules and regulations and what Betty and I have done, we actually have a form - it's on our website. It's very simple, and it's very straightforward. I think it's great that the City has made a significant investment. People are using the facilities, but at the same time I'd like to be able to track it, but the big unknown there and the perfect example, I think it was the day of the cleanup. Over in Pinckney Park, there was a jump castle. They did not come to the City, they just showed up that Saturday morning I think it is great that people are using the facilities, but we still need to plan for it.

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Tourism

Again, this is a status quo budget.

Non-Departmental Budget

Mr. Molinari announced that there was two items here and are basically expenditures that really don't fall in any one department. The City typically contributes \$6,000 annually to the Chamber of Commerce and then our debt service - 2011 General Obligation Bond is \$205,657,000. That bond will be paid off in 2021.

Operational Contingency

There is nothing there.

Employee Christmas Bonus

Mr. Molinari stated, you will see a bit of an increase here. He said, one thing I did in the fall when we were looking at the Christmas bonuses, was that I tried to set up some criteria for the Christmas bonuses. Basically, what I've done is base it on longevity. If you have been with the City between 1 year and 5 years, you get a certain amount, then for 5 to 10 years, 10 to 15, and 15 to 20, and over 20. Based on that methodology, we have a little bit of an increase there.

Insurance - Retirees

This is something that we talked about last year, as well. The insurance for retirees - these are the premiums that we pay for the 9 retirees that are currently receiving health care benefits.

Mr. Molinari explained GASB 45. He said what they did is that they put an end to the pay-as-you-go method of providing retiree health insurance. What we have to do is we have to put money into a trust every year and it fully funds all of our obligations based on the actuarial report that is done every two years. The good news in that regard is that Bill Floyd went to an SCORBET meeting back in February and the number of eligible employees for retiree health care benefit has gone down. At one time, we were at about 75 and now we are around 55. What that means is the amount of money that we have to put into that trust will go down. So, next year when we do the budget, that number should do down.

Water

Mr. Molinari stated that we are adding one new technician to the water budget. That is actually upgrading a part-time position.

Utilities Support

Mr. Molinari stated that this budget is very straightforward. These are two individuals that are Clerk Cashiers in our Finance Office, whose primary responsibilities are water and sewer billing.

Council Member Broderick then asked about the stability of the railing at the waterfall. Mr. Molinari noted that when doing the budget with Wayne, his direction to Wayne on the railing is that we need to get this taken care of right now. I think the number they were initially looking at to do that repair-replacement was about \$20,000, and the low bidder we had on the project was Ian Padgett and we are going to get it done for \$10,600.

Sewer

Mr. Molinari said, I have already mentioned it before, but let me direct your attention to Line item 74, and that's where you see the sludge disposal fee increase. Those costs are a combination of having to bring in some temporary pieces of equipment, as well as hauling the sledge off to the landfill, which is quite expensive.

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Sewer Support

As I mentioned before, this is the department that Amy created to fund those 5 positions that are heavily involved with the sewer enterprise. The most significant change you will see in there is that Charlie Chewing is retiring at the end of June. The employee leasing line item has been zeroed out, and the Public Works Director has been added.

Debt Service

Mr. Molinari said, the payment schedule for the 2011 General Obligation Bond is here. That bond will be paid off in 2021. The 800 mghertz radios, \$75,000 annually, will be paid off in 2018. Last year City Council authorized the financing of a new sanitation vehicle and the annual debt service on that is \$42,691.

Mr. Molinari then directed Council's attention to the debt service page associated with the sewer system. He announced that back in 2011, the City did some fairly extensive sewer rehabilitation, and that debt service does not get satisfied until 2026.

Special Funds

Mr. Molinari stated that Amy has done a really good job here breaking down our Local Accommodation Tax, Local Hospital Tax, and State Accommodations Tax. As you are aware, we have a 1 ½ percent Local Accommodations Tax.

On the Local A-Tax, the revenue numbers are trending nicely. We have gone in 2011 from \$173,000 to \$179,000 to \$181,206, and we should be above that \$206,000 number at the end of this fiscal year.

On the Local Hospitality Tax, the Hospitality Tax is currently paying debt service on both the City's Tax Increment Financing District, as well as the bond payments associated with the Veterans Victory House.

The last item here is our State A-Tax monies. Those numbers are trending in the right direction.

Concluding his discussion on the 2015-2016 budget, Mr. Molinari said, I know that is a lot of information. If you have any questions after this meeting, please feel free to get in touch with me. He also announced that another Budget Committee is scheduled for May 12, 2015. He added, Council Member Bridge could not be here tonight, but what we have talked about here, I will go through the budget with her at a separate meeting.

Mayor Young then asked the City Manager if he felt there would be more changes made at the May 12 Budget meeting. Mr. Molinari responded he did not expect more changes, but we are scheduled right now to give First Reading to the budget at the second meeting in May and then Second Reading at the first meeting in June. It looks like everyone is comfortable with the budget, but let me sit down with Judy and go through everything, and then if she's comfortable with it, we can proceed ahead to the budget ordinance and public notification requirements.

Chairman Lohr agreed it would be good to wait and let Jeff present it to Council Member Bridge.

City Manager Molinari then recognized Amy Risher and her staff for all the time and effort putting the budget together. He also thanked the department managers for their work on the budget. He said, they understand that we are dealing with an infinite number of needs and a limited number of resources, but everyone has done a really good job keeping their expenditures in line, but also being realistic of what City Council can ultimately do with the budget.

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Chairman Lohr stated that some of this had been discussed with the committee and some things had been brought up at the retreat. He said, I feel really good about the budget in terms of the meetings that you held. In terms of Wayne's operation, we need to stay even with if not in front of it as far as the cost.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed with all members voting in favor. The meeting concluded at approximately 5:55 P.M. Notice of this meeting was distributed to all local media, including the City's website and posted on the City Hall bulletin board at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Submitted by,

Betty J. Hudson
City Clerk

APPROVED: June 9, 2015