

Agenda Item #5

274

April 5, 2016

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 5th day of April, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Ceasor Johnson, Vice President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing regarding the Proposed FY 2016 Budget and the 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program. The following Members were present:

Present: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Perrow 4

Absent: Nelson, Tweedy, Gillette 3

// City Manager Kimball Payne provided an overview of the FY 2017 Proposed Budget totaling \$352.2 million. The General Fund expenditures of \$185.7 million is a projected increase of less than \$1 million from current year. The Proposed Budget does comply with the fiscal policies adopted by City Council. Mr. Payne stated that this Budget does not include any tax increases, however, does propose an increase in Water (4.9%) and Sewer (\$3.3%) rates. Mr. Payne further stated that issues and concerns impacting the budget include:

- Employee Compensation and Benefits
- Tax Revenues
- State Funding
- Body-Worn Cameras
- Greater Lynchburg Transit company (GLTC)
- Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Schools Funding

Mr. Payne described the Goals in balancing the Budget which are as follows:

- Continue targeted compensation adjustments for positions considerably below market
- Reserve as much as possible of the \$1.2 million General Fund Reserve for Contingencies for capital needs and
- Eliminate the use of Managed Vacancy savings to enhance end of year fund balance and provide greater future funding for pay-as-you-go capital projects.

He explained the General Fund Revenues which are projected to total \$180.4 million (i.e. Dedicated Revenue \$36.9 million and Non-Dedicated Revenue \$143.5 million), and a \$5.4 million increase compared to FY 2016 (3.1%). The Real Property Tax at 57.9 million with a \$1.4 million increase over Adopted Budget FY 2016 and the assessed are value projected to increase 1.25% due to new construction and renovations. Mr. Payne went on to say that the Capital Improvement Fund total for the Proposed Five - year Capital Improvement Plan is \$199.9 million.

// In the matter of Budget, a public hearing was held regarding City Council Report #1 pertaining to the FY 2017 Proposed Operating Budget and the FY 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program for the City of Lynchburg, which includes funding for General, Schools, Fleet, Airport, Water, Sewer, Stormwater and Other Funds.

During the public hearing a total of 10 individuals spoke concerning the following programs:

- Two individuals spoke (Amy Gallaher and John Abell) in favor of continuing funding for the Lynchburg City Schools.
- Two individuals spoke (James Mundy and Bruce Phipps) in favor of supporting the new program Empowerment Academy in the Lynchburg City Schools.
- One individual spoke (Jim Weigand) concerning the City funding to the school system at a much higher level than what is required by the State.
- One individual spoke (Vincent Sawyer) asking City Council to consider a request for \$10,000 for a staff member for the "Healing Place" organization.
- Two individuals spoke (Patrick Arwood and Uel Hartless) to raise the priority on the road widening of Breezewood Drive project.
- One individual spoke (Don Sloan) to request a pay increase for part-time deputy sheriffs.
- One individual spoke (Melanie Thompson) expressing concern about the City's business license tax.

There was no one else present who wished to speak to this item, and the public hearing was closed.

// The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Clerk of Council