

Minutes
Town of Yemassee Town Council
August 4, 2023, Budget Workshop Meeting 8:00AM
101 Town Cir, Yemassee, SC 29945-3363

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Colin Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Peggy Bing-O'Banner, Council Member David Paul Murray, Council Member Stacy Pinckney, Human Resources Specialist Caroline Koger, Public Works Director Lonnie Green, Town Administrator Matthew Garnes and Police Chief Gregory Alexander

Absent: Council Member Washington

Media Present: Lowcountry Inside Track, Ltd.

Call to Order:

Mayor Moore called the Friday August 4, 2023, Budget Workshop to order at 8:00 AM.

Determination of Quorum:

Council Member Washington was absent. The remainder of the Council was present.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented for August 4, 2023, Budget Workshop as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion. Second by Council Member Pinckney. **All in favor, Motion Passed, Agenda Adopted.**

FY24 Budget Discussion:

Mayor Moore turned the meeting over to the Town Administrator, Matthew Garnes. This budget provides a balanced budget while undertaking several projects to improve the quality of life of our residents and the quality of services we provide for our community. The consolidated budget consists of two funds, a departure from previous years. This year the Town proposes to add a Capital Projects Fund in addition to our General Fund, the main operating accounts of the Town. As the Town has grown exponentially over the last several years and with development occurring in and around the Town, the need has never been greater to evaluate current infrastructure and identify priorities for investment. While the new Capital Projects Fund will start small, over time this will provide a dedicated funding source capable of handling an array of Town projects. The Capital Projects Fund would be funded monthly as tax collections are received and the

equivalent of two mills would be transferred into the account monthly. Annually, the Town Council would approve a project list each year concurrently with the budget. The proposed General Fund budget is \$3,181,373.00 of which \$955,444.90 is grant revenue for committed projects. The proposed CIP fund this year has funding to begin engineering for a new Police Department. As our Town has grown, the current facilities have not kept up and the existing Municipal Complex is rapidly approaching capacity. The Police Department is evaluating several options for a new, standalone facility.

As presented, the proposed budget provides a 5% salary increase across the board to all Staff- the first time such a move has been proposed. To remain a competitive employer and to recruit and retain the best talent, we believe that ensuring salaries are competitive and commensurate with economic conditions are key to a workforce. Mr. Garnes then asked Ms. Caroline Koger, Human Resources Specialist, to speak on HR figures.

Mr. Garnes then conducted an overview of the projected revenues and expenses by department and answered questions as they arose from the Council. Mr. Garnes said the second reading and public hearing would have to happen on August 29, 2023, to fit the public notice requirements. Upon completion of the presentation by Mr. Garnes, Mayor Moore adjourned the workshop and transitioned into the Special Town Council meeting.