

**Minutes**  
**Town of Yemassee Town Council**  
**Friday July 1, 2022, Budget Workshop 10:00AM**  
101 Town Cir, Yemassee, SC 29945-3363

**Attendance:**

Present: Mayor Colin Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Peggy O'Banner, Council Member David Paul Murray, Town Clerk Matthew Garnes, Public Works Director Lonnie Green, Police Chief Gregory Alexander, Police Captain Joe Loadholt and Human Resources Director, Caroline Koger

Absent: Council Member Alfred Washington and Council Member Stacy Pinckney

Media Present: None

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**Call to Order:**

Mayor Moore called the Friday July 1, 2022, Budget Workshop to order at 10:01AM.

**Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation**

Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**Determination of Quorum:**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented for July 1, 2022, Budget Workshop. Council Member Murray made the motion. There was no discussion. Second by Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner. **All in favor, Motion Passed, Agenda Adopted.**

**Workshop Items:**

General Fund FY23 - Mayor Moore turned the meeting over to Town Clerk Matthew Garnes. Mr. Garnes presented the proposed FY23 Budget. Mr. Garnes reported that another year is winding down in the Town of Yemassee and we have all persevered and adapted to our "new normal" amidst a global pandemic while the Town has concurrently grown in leaps and bounds over the last year. He stated that revenue projections continue to increase based on revenues from property taxes on new annexations, franchise fees imposed on utilities, permits and even our share of the Local Government Fund. The Town did not make as much headway on grant projects as anticipated, due in part to the ramifications of the global pandemic but is anticipated to disburse this year. Additionally, market conditions and inflation have caused the price of goods and operational expenses such as fuel to increase exponentially and the increased expenses are reflected in the budget. The Town is expecting to receive the next tranche of money from the federal

government as part of the American Rescue Plan. Additionally, Beaufort County has earmarked funds that they are disbursing to each municipality in the County known as the “Good Neighbor Fund”. That funding will help execute the Castle Hall Road sidewalk extension capital project. Mr. Garnes reviewed the proposed budget for each department and mentioned increases in the retirement contribution amounts for the Town, which is one percent for all PORS (Police Officer Retirement System) and SCRS (all other employees). All town employees are required to contribute. Additionally, the towns garbage contractor, S&S Disposal, increased their charges by 8%. This amount is permitted in the current contract and despite having the ability to raise it each year due to cost of living, they have not raised it at all thus far during their contract period. The owner stated the price of fuel has hurt the company and typically the truck must dump their load halfway through Town, drive to Hickory Hill landfill and then return to Yemassee. Mayor Pro-Tem O’Banner asked how the tipping fees are paid for the Town of Yemassee. Mr. Garnes said Beaufort County currently pays the tipping fees for the Town of Yemassee and should that ever change we would have to look at a serious increase in cost. Council discussed a potential increase in monthly garbage pickup charges. Mr. Garnes advised the cost on residential cans has not gone up yet during his tenure of five years and that the Town has the lowest rates for residential pickup compared to neighboring municipalities. Chief Alexander stated that the Town of Varnville has a garbage truck and believes there is benefit to the Town investigating the procurement of one once the contract with S&S Disposal increases.

Mayor Pro-Tem O’Banner asked about the current commercial dumpsters within the Town. Mr. Garnes spoke on the options available to businesses; the first being a 96-gallon roll cart which is the same one that a residential customer would get, is \$24.00, while roll-off dumpsters are available in 2-, 4-, 6- and 8-yard sizes with options for pickup once or twice a week. Mayor Moore asked for an idea on roughly how many dumpsters are in the Town. Mr. Garnes advised that the following locations have dumpsters:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>Love’s Travel Stops</b>	409 Yemassee Hwy
<b>Lanes BP</b>	5 Lane St
<b>Lanes Shell Mart</b>	4 Lane St
<b>Le Creuset Factory Outlet Store</b>	17 Lane St
<b>Family Dollar</b>	301 Yemassee Hwy
<b>Dollar General</b>	191 Yemassee Hwy
<b>Snappy Food</b>	145 Yemassee Hwy
<b>Fennell Elementary School</b>	131 Yemassee Hwy
<b>Yemassee Public Works</b>	88 Zahler St E
<b>R&amp;M Convenience Store</b>	212 U.S. Highway 17A
<b>Harold’s Country Club</b>	97 U.S. Highway 17A
<b>Alpha Genesis</b>	95 Castle Hall Rd
<b>Reddy Ice</b>	1 Guess Dr
<b>Lowcountry Food Bank</b>	33 Guess Dr
<b>The Inn at Cotton Hall</b>	200 Cotton Hall Rd

<b>Family Worship Center</b>	2 Trask Pkwy
<b>Tomotley Plantation</b>	300 Cotton Hall Rd

Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner asked how we handle trash pickup for houses of worship. Mr. Garnes reported that churches in town are charged at the residential rate for \$12.00 a month. Mr. Garnes also informed the Town Council that the Town does not offer trash service to out of town residents but has roughly 8 that are grandfathered in from when the Town offered it to out of town residents. The contract with S&S Disposal covers addresses within the Town limits and offering roll-carts to in-town residents only creates operational efficiencies and provides an incentive for eligible residents that are out of Town to annex into the Town to become eligible for trash service. Further discussion would occur regarding trash prices.

Mayor Moore remarked that the taxes have not increased as long as he can remember, and that the Council should consider an increase in millage. The current millage rate in the Town of Yemassee is 71.00 mills within Hampton County and 66.60 within Beaufort County. Mr. Garnes read correspondence from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office which sets the maximum millage increase the Town can impose this year. The number is derived from the consumer price index and increased 4.70 percent from calendar year 2020 to calendar year 2021. The population of the Town of Yemassee decreased 0.17 percent from 2020 to 2021, according to the annual estimates of resident population. State statute states the negative population factor is deemed to be 0 percent and combining the two components yields a cap of 4.70 percent on the millage rate increase for the Town of Yemassee for FY 2022-2023.

As presented, the budget requires the Police Department to generate over \$600,000 in traffic tickets and court fines during the next budget year. Chief Alexander expressed concern regarding that amount and said a millage increase would decrease the \$600,000 and allow the officers more time to patrol town areas and engage in community policing efforts which is a resounding request from Zone D. The Council requested that Mr. Garnes compile figures regarding potential tax increases and how it would affect the overall budget. Mr. Garnes stated he will work on the numbers and provide it to the Council within a few weeks.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Moore asked for motion to adjourn. Council Member Murray made the motion to adjourn. Second by Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner. All in favor, **Workshop Adjourned at 10:56AM.**