



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

November 23, 2020

CITY HALL

5:00 P.M.

I) Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush call the workshop to order. Mayor, Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Ray Jarrett were present. Councilmember Brad Clenney was not present. Also present was the City Clerk, Melinda Crook

II) Budget

A representative from Triangle Energy spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding converting all City buildings to LED lighting. He stated that an analysis had and then he spoke of the overall savings to the City. He informed the Mayor and Council that there was special financing that the City could utilize regarding this project and payments over time on an annual basis. He spoke on the difference between them installing and getting them done in house and the problems that could be caused. He informed the Mayor and Council that the overall cost for the City would be between \$50,000 to \$60,000

Kaye Hall spoke about the funds from Hotel/Motel. She stated that the funds are used for keeping the Museum open, the salary for the Museum worker, lights around the tops of the buildings, banners on the square, flowers in the pots around the square and items at Cohelee Creek. She also stated that they want to finish repairs on an historic home in town. She informed the Mayor and Council that they had resealed the murals painted on some buildings. She informed the Mayor and Council of how they are using their FB page regarding tourism. The Mayor informed Ms. Hall of a Downtown Development Grant that he would like to have them try applying for to receive additional funds. The Mayor asked Ms. Hall to incorporate banners for Black History Month.

Stephen Bonner, Recreation Director, spoke on their City budgeted funds. He stated that they were not asking for any type of increase. He informed the Mayor and Council of the Recreation Dept. current financial status. He informed the Council that COVID had and continues to slow down registrations. He spoke of the PPE items they have had to purchase. He informed the Mayor and Council of how they are planning to move forward with basketball per guidelines. He spoke of a slight increase in registration cost due to COVID PPE items. He presented the Mayor with

2018-2019 and 2020-2021 financial information and budgets. He stated that they were trying to do more with less. He informed the Mayor and Council that they are trying to work with the school system regarding a summer camp and how he is hoping to be able to work with the school regarding a split purchase of some equipment.

Celia Bostwick spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding keeping the funding the same for the Chamber. She spoke of items that they have not been able to do this year due to COVID that they normally do for additional income. She spoke of what the funds cover, that the Chamber receives from the City and County. She stated that they also rent out three offices for some additional funds. She informed the Mayor and Council that all business are not members of the Chamber and she also went over what the dues are for the ones that are members. She stated that the City, County, fund raisers and donations are what supports the Chamber. The Mayor asked Ms. Bostwick if the County had changed their budgeted funds to the Chamber. Ms. Bostwick stated that the County had dropped their funding to \$20,000 due to COVID but that she hopes it goes back up in the next year's budget.

The Mayor spoke of the upkeep and current conditions of the City Cemetery and asked the Council to consider an increase in the cost of a site due to the City's maintenance costs.

The Mayor then asked if any of the Department Heads wanted to speak on anything in their budget. Chris McClendon, Water/Sewer Department Head, spoke on his budget stating that contract labor and computers had changed because of Tantalus support and a new MVRS software that was needed. He also spoke on the purchase of a new VAC Truck and how essential this piece of equipment was to the City as a whole. Melinda Crook, Administration Department Head, spoke on the changes in her budget. She stated that the three employees in Technology and that the Building Maintenance person were now being added to her department therefore salaries and benefits were increasing. She also stated that a large amount (\$50,000) had been included in her budget for the moving of a server from the Fiber Hut and that this was due to the sale of Fiber. She informed the Mayor and Council that she had added several accounts to include specific items for the Building Maintenance employee and IT. The Mayor then informed the Council of the Building Official budget and that changes there were for a Code Enforcement Officer to help that department function to its fullest capability.

III) Adjournment

The Mayor closed the workshop to allow for a short break before entering into the Special Called Meeting.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor