

Minutes
Special Called Meeting
Aberdeen Town Board

May 10, 2012
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Robert N. Page Municipal Building
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Town Board met on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for a Special Called Meeting to discuss the budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Board members present were Mayor Elizabeth B. Mofield, Mayor Pro-tem Robbie Farrell and Commissioners Pat Ann McMurray, Jim Thomas, and Walter Wright. Commissioner Alan Parker was not in attendance for the meeting. Staff members in attendance were Town Manager Bill Zell, Town Clerk Regina Rosy, and Finance Officer Beth Wentland.

Mayor Mofield called the Special Called Meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Manager Zell stated he changed the tax valuation number to reflect what we recently received from Moore County. Manager Zell stated the Main Street Program was taken out of the budget, per the discussion at the last meeting. Manager Zell stated a position was added to the Planning Department's budget so that a staff person can still work on the Main Street area, but the Town would not apply for the Main Street Program at this time.

Manager Zell stated the special appropriations were changed to be \$1,375 each, rather than different amounts. Manager Zell stated the penny sales tax increase was removed, so that the tax rate would remain the same for the upcoming year.

Finance budget - Finance Officer Wentland stated her computer and Sharon Simpson's computer are very outdated and need to be replaced, and she is also requesting to replace her scanner and printer since they do not communicate well with her updated Microsoft software.

Commissioner McMurray and Mayor Mofield asked if there was any way to get a lower price for the audit. Finance Officer Wentland explained that auditors charge an hourly rate, and even though Dixon Hughes is familiar with the Town's accounts, they still charge an hourly rate and spend a great deal of time looking over the financial accounts.

Building and Grounds budget – Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked if work had been done recently at the library to change the amount by \$3,000. Manager Zell explained the ramp was renovated this past year, the railing was replaced, and the roof was repaired. Commissioner McMurray stated the AA Building was also cleaned up a lot last year. Commissioner McMurray asked Finance Officer Wentland if the basement issue at the Finance Building has been resolved. Finance Officer Wentland stated ever since the sump pump was put in the basement, the problem has been resolved.

Police Administration budget – Manager Zell stated salaries were going down in this line item because Charles Campbell's separation allowance will be coming off in August when he turns age 62.

Police Investigations budget – Manager Zell stated salaries are going up in this line item because there is an additional investigator being added, in addition to the separation allowance for Dan Wilson.

Police Patrol budget – Commissioner McMurray asked about the fuel cost. Manager Zell stated Exxon gives the Town a discount on fuel, and the McNeills also give the Town a discount for fuel.

Fire budget – Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked what the building maintenance line item involves. Manager Zell explained all of the items included in the Fire department building maintenance line item.

Planning & Inspections budget – Manager Zell stated he previously mentioned he added in the grant writer position, took away the Main Street Program, and adjusted the line items pertaining to the Main Street Program. Mayor Mofield confirmed the penny cent tax increase was done away with. Manager Zell agreed the tax rate would remain at the current rate of \$0.43. Manager Zell stated the major additions to the budget for Planning are the additional position, land use plan, and the legal fees being transferred from Administration to Planning.

Parks & Recreation – Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked what will happen with the PARTF grant. Manager Zell stated the grant will be in a separate budget. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked which vehicles are in the department. Manager Zell stated there is a car and a 1-year old truck in the Parks & Recreation Department. Commissioner McMurray asked where we stand with the Rescue Squad building. Manager Zell stated the EMS folks have moved back to the Aberdeen Fire Station, and now the Rescue Squad building will be used for storage by the Fire Department and Parks & Recreation Department. Mayor Mofield asked why there are no dollars budgeted for grant planning services. Manager Zell stated \$25,000 was budgeted in this current year's budget, so no money was requested for this upcoming budget. Commissioner McMurray asked if some azaleas or some other type of trailing bush could be planted along the fence at Colonial Heights. Mayor Mofield stated she thinks it would be a great idea to start a program to allow the public to donate a tree or rose bush to be planted in Aberdeen in honor of a loved one. Mayor Mofield asked how much Aberdeen spends on fireworks. Manager Zell stated \$14,000 is about how much the Town spends each year on fireworks. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked about the sandpro and the fence. Manager Zell stated the money was taken out of the proposed budget for the fence because it has already been completed in the current fiscal year budget. Manager Zell stated he is leaving the sandpro in the proposed budget, since it is really needed to do the ballfields. Manager Zell stated a budget amendment will be completed for the fence that was just installed. Mayor Mofield stated she was ashamed of the fence that was installed at Colonial Heights. Mayor Mofield stated she would like for Parks & Recreation Director Leigh Baggs to handle the fence to go by the creek in Aberdeen Lake Park. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked Manager Zell to check into the train benches that Parks & Recreation Director Baggs had brought to the Board previously, and he would really like to see four benches placed around the playground set at Aberdeen Lake Park. Manager Zell stated he will get with Parks & Recreation Director Baggs and have her order four benches prior to July 1st.

Streets budget – Mayor Mofield questioned the communications line item. Manager Zell stated this line item is mainly for the narrow band radios Rickie will have to buy during the upcoming year. Mayor Mofield asked if there is someone being trained to replace Bob Matthews when he retires. Manager Zell explained Steve Templin will replace Bob Matthews when he retires. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked about the amount budgeted for sidewalks. Manager Zell stated \$20,000 was budgeted for sidewalks. Mayor Mofield stated she would prefer to see the Town spending money for sidewalks on sidewalks in neighborhoods rather than down US Highway 1. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell stated it would take forever to do sidewalks in all of the neighborhoods. Mayor Mofield stated she would prefer to have DOT pay for the sidewalks on US Highway 1, and then the Town of Aberdeen pay for neighborhood sidewalks. Commissioner Wright stated he would like to see the Town of Aberdeen finish the sidewalk on US Highway 1 due to public safety and the appearance.

Beautification budget – Mayor Mofield asked if this budget includes all of the mowing, planting, etc. for the whole Town. Manager Zell stated it covers all Town properties, except Town parks which is covered in the Parks & Recreation budget under grounds maintenance.

Sanitation budget – Manager Zell stated a 15-year sanitation worker retired recently which caused the salaries line item to decrease.

Debt service budget – Manager Zell stated the fire station expansion project has been added to the debt service for the upcoming year.

Water Production – Mayor Mofield stated she would like to make sure that Aberdeen’s water source is not being tapped into. Manager Zell stated he will check with Rickie and see what preventive measures the Town can take to protect Aberdeen’s water source. Commissioner Wright stated he is concerned about the safety of the well sites. Manager Zell stated Rickie is researching the best way to protect the wells in Aberdeen.

Water & Sewer budget - no comments.

Manager Zell invited the Board members to the Safety & Health Day scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th. Manager Zell stated screenings would begin at 7:30 a.m. and lunch would be served at 12:00 p.m.

Mayor Mofield brought up the letter received from Bill Marts regarding the tax increase and the cost of living increase for employees. Mayor Mofield asked for arguments of why it would not be a good idea to do a 2% cost of living increase, and do an equal amount for each employee. Commissioner Wright stated he is not in favor of equal amounts for employees. Manager Zell stated one argument would be over time it would compress the gap between higher paid employees and lower paid employees. Town Clerk Regina Rosy stated the taxes are higher for higher paid employees, versus lower paid employees, and if everyone receives the same amount, then higher paid employees will receive less of a cost of living increase.

Mayor Pro-tem Farrell shared a concern he received from a citizen about high speeds of traffic in her area. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell stated the citizen will be in attendance at the Board Meeting on May 14th, and he would like for Chief Connor to be in attendance. Manager Zell stated he will contact Chief Connor and ask him to be in attendance on May 14th.

With no further items for discussion or review, a motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Farrell to adjourn the Work Session. Motion unanimously carried.

Regina M. Rosy, Town Clerk

Minutes were completed in
Draft form on May 10, 2012

Elizabeth B. Mofield, Mayor

Minutes were adopted
May 14, 2012