

Town of Lovettsville

Town Council Minutes of the June 1, 2017 Special Meeting

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Robert Zoldos called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Lovettsville Town Hall, 6 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Lovettsville, VA.

Council Members Present

- Mayor Robert Zoldos
 - Council Member Jim McIntyre
 - Council Member Rob Gentile (arrived at 7:59 p.m.)
 - Council Member Mike Senate
 - Vice Mayor Tiffaney Carder
 - Council Member Kim Allar
 - Council Member Jennifer Jones
-
- Staff Present
 - Town Clerk Harriet West
 - Town Manager Laszlo Palko
 - Town Consultant Sam Finz

Planning Commission Chairman Frank McDonough was in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Zoldos led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from the Public

Mayor Zoldos called for comments from the public. Vice Mayor Carder read the rules for public comment.

Renee' Edmonston, 10 Cooper Run Street, spoke about the large increase in the budget. She summarized the written statements she submitted (Attachment 1).

Ryan Hornbaker, 15 Black Forest Lane, spoke about an incident that happened at MayFest regarding a group called Thunderdome Politics and Congresswomen Barbara Comstock. She also spoke about the budget, specifically the events budget and the capital budget. Mayor Zoldos addressed Ms. Hornbaker's comments about Congresswomen Comstock.

Chris Hornbaker, 15 Black Forest Lane, spoke about the budget and said that the Town contributed towards the costs of Oktoberfest and MayFest over the years and now that these events are generating revenue, the money should be used to cover the cost of human resources and infrastructure. He noted that the events expenses are shown as a line item, but there is nothing shown for the revenue.

Additions/Deletions/Modifications to the Agenda

There were none.

Updates from the Town Manager and Town Attorney

There were no updates.

Minutes

A. September 15, 2016 Regular Meeting

Motion: I move to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2016 regular meeting as amended.

By: McIntyre

Second: Senate
Aye: McIntyre, Senate, Carder, Allar, and Jones
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Gentile

Action/Discussion Items

A. FY 18 Budget & Schedule of Fees Adoption

Manager Palko responded to questions that had been raised about the budget. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the impact of events on economic development, the allocation of costs for the program budgets, water/sewer costs, reserves, capital projects, and the proposed trash fee. Following further discussion, Councilman Gentile made the following motion:

Motion: I move that the Town Manager make adjustments to the budget and reduce the real estate tax to \$0.20 and not add a trash fee.
Second: Senate

Following discussion on the motion, Mr. Finz spoke about procedure and suggested that the motion should identify what adjustments should be made to the advertised budget. Following further discussion, Mayor Zoldos called for the vote.

Aye: Gentile
Nay: McIntyre, Senate, Carder, Allar, and Jones
Abstain: None
Absent: None

B. Planning Commission Appointments

The Council discussed scheduling the interview with the applicant for the Planning Commission vacancy on June 8, 2017.

Closed Session

Mayor Zoldos announced that the Council would be convening in closed session. Vice Mayor Carder made the following motion:

Motion: I move that the Lovettsville Town Council convene in closed session pursuant to Va. Code section 2.2-3711A1 for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body; for discussion of possible resignations by specific public officers, appointees or employees and options for reconfiguring the staffing of affected operations if such resignations occur; and thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.
Second: Jones
Aye: McIntyre, Gentile, Senate, Carder, Allar, and Jones
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The Mayor and Council, Town Manager, and Town Consultant Sam Finz convened in closed session at 9:04 p.m. in the trailer adjoining the Town Hall. They returned to the Council Chamber at 10:16 p.m. and resumed in open session. Mayor Zoldos read the following Certification of the Closed Session: Do you certify that to the best of your knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting. Council Members McIntyre, Gentile, Senate, Carder, and Allar certified to the above. Mayor Zoldos stated for the record that Councilwoman Jones left during the closed session.

Information Items

There were none.

Comments from the Mayor and Town Council

Mayor Zoldos said he received excellent feedback from the vendors at MayFest.

Councilman McIntyre reminded everyone about the kickoff for Summer on the Green.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Harriet West, Town Clerk

Date Approved:

Attachments:

1. Written Comments from Renee' Edmonston

General Fund Budget Summary Document: General Questions of Understanding Regarding the Budget

Revenue -

Why would the town consider adding a new charge to the residents for trash services with a planned incremental increase in charges to the residents annually over the next 5 year when there is a projected increase in revenues to the town budget of 11% without the trash service fee being passed on to residents.

Where is the revenue for Town Sponsored Events located in the budget. If the town has a 100K expense line item for events, would one not expect to see a revenue line item for such an investment? What is the projected revenue to the town for events that are funded from the Events and Tourism Program?

Administration Program -

Why does the administration program budget in the summary page state the FY18 budget at \$322,062 however, in the GF Expenditure summary tab the forecasted budget for 2018 states \$402,545.75? Since not in summary detail, what is the direct line items this 52% increase will apply and the dollar amount for each?

Capital Engineering Program -

Why does the capital and engineering program budget in the summary page state the FY18 budget at \$402,242 (a 52% increase) however, in the GF Expenditure summary tab the forecasted budget for 2018 states \$256,108? Since not in summary detail, what is the direct line items this 52% increase will apply and the dollar amount for each?

Public Works Program -

Why does the public works program budget in the summary page state the FY18 budget at \$319,728 (a 22% increase) however, in the GF Expenditure summary tab the forecasted budget for 2018 states \$267,847? Since, not in summary detail, what is the direct line items this 22% increase will apply and the dollar amount for each?

Planning and Zoning Program -

Why does the planning and zoning program budget in the summary page state the FY18 budget at \$184,111 (a 33% increase) however, in the GF Expenditure summary tab the forecasted budget for 2018 states \$137,567? Since, not in summary detail, what is the direct line items this 33% increase will apply and the dollar amount for each?

Events & Tourism Program -

Why does the planning and zoning program budget in the summary page state the FY18 budget at \$122,155 (a 23% increase) however, in the GF Expenditure summary tab the forecasted budget for 2018 states \$98,846? Since, not in summary detail, what is the direct line items this 23% increase will apply and the dollar amount for each?

Economic Development Program -

Why does the planning and zoning program budget in the summary page state the FY18 budget at \$75,364 (a 12% increase) however, in the GF Expenditure summary tab the forecasted budget for 2018 states \$66,913? Since, not in summary detail, what is the direct line items this 12% increase will apply and the dollar amount for each?

Due to the large number of 20%+ increases in budget in 50% of the 8 Expense Category Line Items, I would like to request supporting line item documentation for each category showing the projected increase as to exactly what they represent and a balanced total with the budget summary page.