

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
MAY 16, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin (arrived at 11:24 a.m.)

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1) (arrived at 12:46 p.m.); Mario Benavente (District 3) (departed at 12:30 p.m.); D. J. Haire (District 4) (departed at 12:30 p.m.); Lynne Greene (District 5); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7) (departed at 11:50 a.m.); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8); Deno Hondros (District 9) (arrived at 11:12 a.m.)

Absent: Council Member Malik Davis (District 2)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manger
Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Kimberle Braden, Police Chief
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director
Jerry Clipp, Human Resource Development Director
Rob Stone, Construction Management Director
Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Public Services Director
Chris Cauley, Economic and Community Development Director
Tyffany Neal, Transit Director
Willie Johnson, Interim Chief Information Officer
Jody Picarella, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Gibson, Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director
Lisa Reid, EMS Manager
Yamile Nazar, Human Relations Director
Byron Reeves, Assistant Public Services Director
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Haire called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

2.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager, provided an overview of this item and stated the Office of Community Safety Director would report directly to the City Manager. The Office of Community Safety (OCS) would be built out on the four pillars: Mental Health Response and Diversion, Violence Prevention and Interruption, Homeless Risk Reduction and Youth Opportunities. Mr. Yates provided a spreadsheet of the OCS budget.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Benavente requested an additional \$1.5 million be added to the OCS budget.

PUBLIC SAFETY MARKET ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager, presented this item and stated the ad valorem tax rate increase of \$.05 is recommended to fund the Public Safety market and compression adjustments. This allows the City to keep pace when competing for applicants.

Mayor Colvin stated he wanted to see a comparison of the pay ranges with our peer cities.

Council Member Hondros asked who approves pay raises and promotions in the Police Department. Mr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated he has the final decision on pay increases and promotions.

MOTION: Council Member Greene made a motion to excuse Council Member Haire from the rest of the meeting.

SECOND: Council Member Haire

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 6 in favor to 1 in opposition (Council Member Benavente)

STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND

Mr. Byron Reeves, Public Services Assistant Director, presented this item and provided an overview of the Stormwater Utility Fund and the Stormwater Capital Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FUND

Mr. Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager, provided an overview of this item, and stated the budget has a recommended \$10.00 per year fee increase. Discussion ensued pertaining to loose leaf and yard waste pick-up services.

TRANSIT ENTERPRISE FUND

Ms. Tyffany Neal, Transit Director, presented this item and stated the Transit Department has hired a consultant that is conducting an equity study to review rates and routes. Using general fund balance to maintain "inefficient" routes to study and revise, and continues funding for bus replacements.

PARKING LOT ITEMS

Mr. Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager, went over the list of items: \$500,000.00 to maintain right-of-way maintenance and litter pick-up crews, \$50,000.00 additional funding for neighborhood signage, Police Department compression steps, Police Department peer city comparison for pay, additional funding for water and sewer at Johnson Street, subscriptions for loose leaf and yard waste pick-up, and an additional \$1.5 million for the Office of Community Safety.

3.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.