

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022
TOWN OF SAWMILLS ANNUAL BUDGET RETREAT
9:00 AM

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Pro Tem Clay Wilson
Keith Warren
Rebecca Johnson
Melissa Curtis

STAFF PRESENT

Chase Winebarger
Julie A Good
Terry Taylor

COUNCIL ABSENT

Mayor Johnnie Greene
Joe Wesson

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Clay Wilson called the meeting to order at approximately 10:31am.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Pro Tem Clay Wilson asked for a motion to adopt the February 8, 2022 Budget Retreat Agenda.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to adopt the February 8, 2022 Budget Retreat Agenda. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL UPDATES: DISCUSSION:

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he would like to have Council to give him and the Finance department some discretion, within reason, to decide from which funds projects are paid out of. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the process now is that staff brings everything to Council once a month and costs go up before projects are approved. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that no decisions will be made without Council knowing.

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there are more grants out now for more projects. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that even though the South Caldwell Lift Station project had been budgeted for, the Town has put in for a BRIC grant that would match 50%, so the project is on hold waiting to see if the Town will get the grant and then the money that was budgeted can go to use on another project.

Town Manager Chase Winebarger informed Council that future projects might be delayed four (4) to six (6) months to see if there is a grant that can help instead of the Town paying out of pocket.

FINANCIAL UPDATES: PREMIUM PAY:

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has talked to surrounding areas regarding premium pay. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that similar plans have been currently incorporated by Hickory, Lenoir, Granite Falls, Caldwell County Schools, and Caldwell County Government. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated he would propose the following:

- Premium Pay would be available to full-time and part-time employees, prorated from April 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022 (22 months).
- Full-time employees hired as of January 31, 2022, will receive a payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month per for each month worked since April 1, 2020, with a maximum of twenty-two hundred dollars (\$2,200.00).
- Part-time employees hired as of January 31, 2022, will receive a payment of forty dollars (\$40.00) per month for each month worked since April 1, 2020, with a maximum of eight hundred eighty dollars (\$880.00).
- Premium Pay is subject to 401K (LEOS only), retirement and FICA taxes.

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the total cost would be approximately twenty-five thousand five hundred dollars (\$25,500.00).

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to pay premium pay to full-time employees who worked April 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022, one hundred dollars per month (\$100.00), not to exceed twenty-two hundred dollars (\$2,200.00) and part-time employees who worked April 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022, forty dollars (\$40.00) per month, not to exceed eight hundred eighty dollars (\$880.00), regardless of yearly salary, to be paid out of ARPA funds with retirement and FICA taxes taken out. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL UPDATES: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he would like to give all employees a five percent (5%) salary increase this year, which will be a combination of COLA and Merit.

Town Manager Chase Winebarger also stated that he would like to give sixteen (16) hours per year petty time for employees for appointments that take up to two (2) hours for employees so they are not using all sick and vacation time. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that petty time will not roll over from year to year.

FINANCIAL UPDATES: ADMINISTRATION:

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that, at this point, the focus for the administration department is on a new building. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the ARPA funds can be used for building and would like for Council to use some of the money on a new Town Hall. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he is hoping to begin moving forward in March or April of this year, depending on when the survey is completed.

FINANCIAL UPDATES: PARKS AND RECREATION:

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Parks and Recreation will need to hire a new employee this year and potentially one more next year. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that hiring a new employee will start the process for Parks and Recreation to begin maintaining the parks and therefore free up Public Works to do other jobs.

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the press box at Baird Park needs to be remodeled. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the stairs need to be redone and would like additional lighting.

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town would be doing a youth archery program and a youth fishing program this year.

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he would like to budget for Phase 1 of the new property, which will include:

- Track
- Accessible Track around the Pond
- Accessible Parking at the Pond
- Outdoor Amphitheater
- "Football" Field
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Lights
- Infrastructure

FINANCIAL UPDATES: PUBLIC WORKS

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that most of the budget planning for public works is revolving around upfitting the new building:

- Remodeling Office Space
- Additional Restrooms
- Pavement
- Sewer Connections
- Security

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town would continue to follow the Capital Improvement Plan for projects.

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that staff would like to finish the water line on Baker Circle. The water line stops before the end of Baker Circle and there are some undeveloped properties that do not have access to water. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that finishing the Baker Circle water line will better access to those properties and would give a better flow of water to all of Baker Circle because the water would loop all the way and continue to flow instead of just coming to a stop.

February 8, 2022
Budget Retreat

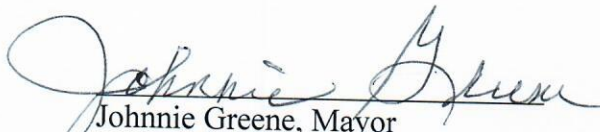
FINANCIAL UPDATES: SANITATION

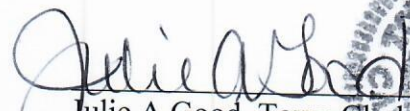
Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that will be no changes in sanitation.

COUNCIL ADJOURN: Mayor Pro Tem Clay Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Clay Wilson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:51am.


Johnnie Greene, Mayor


Julie A Good, Town Clerk

