

DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA

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DUMFRIES TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION MAY 11, 2010 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Yohey, Vice-Mayor Washington, Council Lady West, Councilman Toney, Council Lady Cornell, Council Lady Barr, Councilman Brewer

Also Present: Kim Alexander, Town manager; Cathy Holtzlander, Assistant Town Manager; Retta Ladd, Treasurer; Greg Tkac, Director of Public Works; Yolanda Hipski, Director of Community Services; Major Colgan, Acting Police Chief; Donna Johnson, Town Clerk

Mayor Yohey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He asked if there were any amendments to the agenda.

Mrs. West said she would like to make a motion to rescind her motion made on May 5, 2010 to award the solid waste contract to American Trash Disposal. Mr. Washington said he would like to rescind his second. The reason for rescinding the motion was because the contract was only negotiated with two bidders.

Ms. Barr said she is really upset about possible legal action on the way this was done.

Mr. Tkac said he would like to discuss this in closed session at the end of the budget work session.

Mrs. West made a motion to enter closed session at the end of the work session to discuss the trash contract, citing Virginia Code §2.2-3707 under Virginia Code §2.2-3711 A (6). The motion was seconded by Mr. Washington. Ayes: Brewer, Barr, Cornell, Toney, West, Washington, Yohey. Motion carried.

Mayor Yohey laid out how he would like the budget meeting to proceed. He said he would like to have the meeting over by 10:00 and finish another night if it was necessary. The Mayor said it would be easier to go page by page, versus line by line which was entirely too time consuming.

The Town Manager said she would like the opportunity to make a couple comments about any changes that were made, before anyone asked any questions

Ms. Alexander said that on page 1, on Real Estate taxes, while the tax rate remained the same, the assessments went down 7.36% so the citizens should see a decrease in their property tax bills.

She cited the following changes:

Line Item 10-312-0303 – Lowered from .44 per hundred to .33 to be competitive with the County.

Line Item 10-312-0601 – This is Union Bank Stock Tax and we will receive it until August. The Bank is leaving Dumfries. We will also need to reduce the line item by \$14,780.00 for the fiscal year.

Line Item 10-313-0300 – The County will handle this temporarily (building permits and fees)

10-314-0101 – This amount should be lower.

Ms. Alexander also said that at the bottom of the page that line item 10-324-0410, blighted property you will see this coming in under revenues and going out under community development later on. CDAR Road Construction Funds, line item 10-324-0411 it will show up going out under Public Works. This is for the Tripoli roads project.

10-324-0902 – Transfer from Storm Water Management Funds – This is to pay for overbilling refunds. This will be a line item in and a line item out.

The Mayor said he would like to add Assistant Town Manager to the administration page and leave the Community Service line item blank.

Ms. Barr said that she felt the Capital Outlay (Replacement of audio/visual equipment) for the Information Technology Department should be reduced to about \$2500.00. She said let staff come back with a recommendation.

Mr. Toney said he felt this needed to be revisited.

Mrs. West said she thought we could wait another year to be “zoomed” in on. She would like to see this removed from the budget.

Governing Body

Ms. Barr asked about the Capital Outlay, 10-412-5800 – she was told it was for the replacement of the old server. Also discussed were:

10-411-0900 – Promotional Expense

10-411-5600 - Other

10-411-5700 – Council Expense

Ms. Barr said she would also like to see what was spent from January 1st to now.

Mrs. West wanted to make sure that there was enough money for the new members to attend the training for the Newly Elected Officials. She also asked about the VML Conference. Ms. Alexander felt that there was enough money in there to take care of training for the Council. She said there might not be enough money for a retreat, but other training should be covered by the allotted money.

Expenditures for Administration

Ms. Alexander commented that changes were:

A decrease in The Town Clerks salary (line item 10-412-0102)

The addition of a salary for the Economic Development Director –
(Line item 10-412-0106)

Budget line item 10-412-3007 was changed to “Marketing”

Buildings and Grounds (Pg. 6)

The Mayor asked about line item 10-415-4005 he wanted to know what the \$19,000.00 was going to be used for. Ms. Alexander told him that she had come to Council some months ago discussing painting inside and outside of the building as well as installing security cameras. It was also for general repairs.

The Mayor also asked about the amounts allotted for the Museum and the Lockett House. She said this was the amount that was left to put toward what was needed. She said they may need to prioritize and decide if they wanted to put the money into just one project, instead of using it for both buildings.

Also discussed was line item 10-415-4006 which is for the maintenance of the air conditioning unit and for insulation to be put in.

Public Safety

Ms. Alexander said in the initial budget she was looking at the elimination of 5 positions but she brought this back up to 10 sworn officers with the elimination of four officer positions. Other changes are the travel and training line item, an additional \$10,000 has been added there. Other changes are under the accreditation. A significant amount of funding was added there. She would like to say that the majority of the funding under the accreditation is for the general orders. She said Major Colgan would address this when she was done. She said whether the Police Department gets accredited or not, the general orders have to be updated. She said some of the deficiencies are significant and could result in liability for the Town.

After a very lengthy conversation between Major Colgan and various members of the Council regarding the accreditation and updating the General Orders, Mr. Toney made a motion for elimination of the Accreditation from the budget. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Barr said that a great deal of money was spent for the General Orders to be reviewed by our former legal firm. She wanted to know if the firm could be held responsible for all the errors that still existed in the General Orders.

Mr. Washington said that he had to support the accreditation. He said \$45,000 is not as important as the safety of the Police Department and the citizens.

There was some confusion as Mr. Washington had made a motion but no one ever seconded the motion. He said the Mayor cut him off and he was not allowed to continue with his motion. Ms. Barr said if he wanted to keep the motion in she would second it. Ms. Barr seconded the motion. Mr. Washington then asked if no vote was taken would the \$45,000.00 still stay in the budget. Ms. Alexander told him yes it would. Mr. Washington then decided to withdraw his motion. Ms. Barr withdrew her motion as well.

Mrs. West made a motion to cut crime prevention from \$3,000 to no more than \$1500.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Washington. Ayes: Washington, West, Cornell, Yohey. Nays: Toney, Barr, Brewer. Motion carried.

Mayor Yohey said out of a budget of \$1,320,000 for Public Safety the Council only took out \$1500.00. Ms. Alexander said that was correct. Mayor Yohey said he wanted to make sure that he had not missed anything.

Public Works

10-441 Street maintenance – there were no major changes. The Mayor said he would like to see the Town Manager and the Director of Public Works come back and save \$20,000 on the solid waste contract.

Community Development

10-442-0101 - this line item will be changed to Property Maintenance Official.
10-442-0600 – Inspections – the inspections for now will be done by the County.

Community Service

10-472-0100 – 472-0500 - Community Services will be put in Administration
10-472-2300 – the rest will remain in Community Services
10-472-2800 – Reduce programs to \$18,000.

Boards & Commissions

10-481-0500 - 10-481-4400 No changes

Debt Service – Initially was \$254,818.00 but because of the bond refinance it would now be \$128,880 less than anticipated.

Mrs. West commented that Council had told the citizens that they were only going to increase the tax rate for two billing cycles. Several questions were raised as a result of her comment.

Mr. Toney wanted to know what would be saved if the Real Estate Tax Rate was taken down three cents. The Mayor asked how much it would cost to take the BPOL taxes back to the 2009 rate.

Ms. Alexander said if the tax rate was reduced by three cents the savings would be \$82,372.32. She did ask that if they reduced the tax rate by three cents that she be allowed to make the recommended changes where necessary.

After additional conversation Mr. Toney made a motion to see what impact would be made by reducing the tax rate by 2.33 cents. Mr. Washington seconded the motion. Ayes: Toney, West, Washington, Yohey. Nays: Brewer, Barr, Cornell. Motion carried.

Mrs. Ladd said she would like to comment. She said as the Treasurer she is concerned due to the fact that \$400,000 has been used in the last few months and nothing had been put back into the reserve. Ms. Alexander said that she

shared Mrs. Ladd's concerns. Her job was to present a budget and that was what she had done, but she felt the way Mrs. Ladd did.

Mr. Washington wanted to know if he could withdraw his second to Mr. Toney's motion. Ms. Alexander explained to him that this was just a vote to see what the budget would look like at the rate reduction of 2.33 cents. Ms. Alexander told the Council members that she would have an updated cash flow analysis to them on Monday.

Closed Session

Council had already voted at the beginning of the meeting to discuss rescinding the motion made on May 5th, 2010 for the solid waste contract to American Trash. Ms. Alexander wished to include personnel so the motion was made again.

Mrs. West made a motion to enter closed session citing Virginia Code §2.2-3707 under Virginia Code §2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel and A (6) Investing of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Washington. Ayes: Washington, West, Toney, Cornell, Barr, Brewer, Yohey. Motion carried.

Council entered closed session at 10:30 PM.

Return to Open Session

Council returned to open session at 11:46 PM.

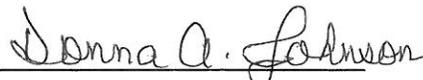
Mrs. West read the Certification of Proceedings certifying that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of state law, and only such public business matters as were identified by the motion to enter closed session, were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brewer.

Mr. Toney made a motion to advertise for a part-time Police Chief at \$84,000 or \$7,000 per month. The motion was seconded by Mrs. West. On roll call the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Yohey made a motion to approve a salary of \$75,000 to Cathy Holtzlander, as the Assistant Town Manager, with a six month review to further assess the salary if necessary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toney. On roll call the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Toney made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Brewer. On roll call the vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 PM.

Submitted by:


Donna A. Johnson, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved by:


Fred E. Yohey, Jr.
Mayor