

Work Session
City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
September 16, 2019

The City Council of the City of Fayette held a work session at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on September 16, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Ray Nelson, Councilmembers Linda McCraw, Eddy Campbell, Jason Cowart, Cedric Wilson and Jerry Nichols. Also present was City Attorney Dale Lawrence.

Mayor Ray Nelson announced a quorum was present and the meeting was open for the transaction of business.

RAILS TO TRAILS

Mr. Van Gravlee spoke to the Council and said the Rails to Trails Project had a lot of support and should move forward.

2020 FISCAL YEAR PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Rick McCabe spoke to the Council concerning the proposed budget for the 2020 fiscal year. The proposed 2020 budget assumes the City will receive approximately \$6,277,215.00 in revenue and pay approximately \$6,027,902.65 in expenses. The budget includes a 3% raise for all employees.

The following capital expenditures are included in the budget:

1. Police Department: Three (3) police cars --\$120,171.00 (paid through lease of vehicles)
2. Street Department: Two (2) zero turn mowers -- \$12,000.00
3. Park & Recreation Department: (the following items will be paid out of concession stand funds)
 - a. Field bagging system - \$6,000.00
 - b. Fencing - \$3,000.00
4. Shop: Air compressor -- \$2,400.00
5. Aquatic Center (below items will be paid out of Aquatic Center funds)
 - a. Chairs and tables -- \$4,000.00
6. Civic Center: Computer -- \$2,500.00
7. Fire Department: (will be paid by donation from Gas Board and a \$214,000.00 note)
 - a. Fire Truck -- \$414,000.00

Mr. McCabe said there had been several inquiries about the City refinancing its bond. Because of lower interest rates, the City could reduce its interest and realize a \$200,000.00 savings. Also, if the Council desired, the City could add \$600,000.00 to the bond and the monthly payment would remain the same due to the lower interest rate; however, the bond would go back to having a 25 year payoff. The City's current bond is a 25 year bond (with 18 years left to pay) and the City owes \$2.2 million on it.

The Council discussed how to come up with funds to pave streets. The consensus of the Council was not to raise taxes nor dip into the City's reserves. Mr. McCabe recommended to the Council that they refinance the bond. He said the Council would need to decide on whether to add to the bond or not.

[Councilmember Jason Cowart was excused from the meeting at this point.]

It was the consensus of the Council to refinance the bond but not add any money to it.

It was the consensus of the Council to put a \$500,000.00 paving project appropriation in the budget.

It was the consensus of the Council to add \$25,000.00 to the budget for a new shop building.

RAISES FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS

The Council discussed certain pay raises for certain employees and department heads. It was reported that Park and Recreation Director Lance Holliman had requested a raise. Mayor Nelson recommended City Clerk Dawn Clapp and the Assistant City Clerk Sherry Fowler get a raise. He recommended the Assistant City Clerk receive a \$1.50 per hour raise and the City Clerk receive a raise of \$2,000.00 to her annual salary.

The Park and Recreation Director had asked for a \$6,000.00 raise. Mayor Nelson recommended a \$2,000.00 raise for the Park and Recreation Director and he recommended that Matthew Buckner of the Waste Water Department receive a \$2,000.00 raise.

Councilmember Nichols said he was not in favor of giving a pay raise to some department heads but not others.

It was the consensus of the Council that all employees receive a 3% raise including those who are receiving a raise in their annual salary.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon the motion to adjourn being made by Councilmember Wilson and seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously adopted.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk