

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD  
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council held a budget workshop at the Sanford Municipal Center, 225 E. Weatherspoon Street, on Monday, June 13, 2011, at 10:00 A.M. The following people were present:

Mayor Cornelia P. Olive  
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins  
Council Member Bob Brown  
City Manager Hal Hegwer  
City Clerk Bonnie D. White  
Budget Analyst Cindy O'Quinn

Council Member James G. Williams  
Council Member Walter H. McNeil, Jr.  
Council Member Charles Taylor  
Financial Services Director Melissa Cardinali  
City Attorney Susan C. Patterson

Absent:

Council Member Linwood Mann, Sr.  
Council Member L.I. "Poly" Cohen

Mayor Olive called the meeting to order. Council began the workshop beginning at the Inspections Department budget, Page 150 of the budget manual and completed its review of the budget book. They asked questions about different line items in the various departments.

Mr. Hegwer advised that staff did not budget funds for the design of the Endor Iron Furnace Trail Extension from Kiwanis Park to the hospital on Carthage Street and these funds will have to be added to the Community Development Department's budget.

Mr. Taylor brought up the idea of sending out water bills on postcards in lieu of the present process that includes self-addressed envelopes; it would save some postage and the cost of envelopes. He said it may pose a problem with privacy; however, he felt we could bring the jobs back to Sanford. Financial Services Director Melissa Cardinali replied that when the City used to send out postcards years ago, staff received a lot of complaints about privacy and that postcards get stuck in advertisements. She said the bills are processed here and sent electronically to the company in South Carolina, which prints the bills and mails them out. Payments can be sent to the lockbox in Charlotte. The lockbox does not cost the City anything as it is part of our banking services. Mrs. Cardinali advised that a lot of customers pay their utility bill at the last minute due to the economy. There were approximately 175 customers that paid their bill online last month. When customers pay their bill by credit card, staff has to manually match it up with the records here. Mayor Olive asked how much we pay the company in South Carolina to print the bills. Mrs. Cardinali replied \$8,400 per month to print and mail out the bills; only \$1,500 of that figure is for labor. Mr. Taylor mentioned that some municipalities offer a discount for customers who pay by bank draft. Mrs. Cardinali stated that if he would give her the name of the municipalities that offer the discount, she would be glad to call and find out more about the program.

Council members took a five-minute recess at 11:05 A.M. The meeting reconvened at 11:10 A.M.

Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins stated that regarding the Special Tax District, the \$.13 special tax generates less than \$54,000 and if we are interested in helping Downtown and bringing in more businesses, the City should not charge them a special tax because everyone benefits from the merchants being Downtown. It is an unfair burden to the Downtown businesses. He said it is something Council should consider maybe next year. Council Member Williams stated that before Council makes a decision, staff needs to talk to the Downtown Sanford Board.

Mayor Olive stated that she felt Council needs to set aside some time on Wednesday after the Law and Finance Committee meeting in case Council has further questions regarding the budget. City Manager Hal Hegwer stated that it would be nice to conclude the budget on Wednesday, because staff needs some clarification on several items in the budget in order to prepare a budget ordinance for adoption next Tuesday night. He said that staff will prepare a list of items needing clarification and present them to Council on Wednesday. A budget workshop could be held immediately after the Law and Finance Committee meeting if Council so chooses to do so; Council members were in agreement.

Council Member Charles Taylor added that he received another phone call regarding the purchase of radios for the Fire Department. He said that the main reason that the County went with Kenwood, besides the cost, was a frequency issue. They would get a better frequency and band-width with the Kenwood System than what they are currently using now. Kenwood Radios were implemented at the County level, as well as the rural fire departments. There was a \$500 - \$600 difference between the delta and the Kenwood. You can buy two radios for the price of one and actually get better band-width. Mr. Taylor said that he has heard that the Motorola units have some dead zones in radio coverage, especially if the contour of the land is hilly, but they are not having this problem with the Kenwood radios.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member James Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins seconded the motion. Attorney Patterson asked if they are recessing the meeting until Wednesday, after the Law and Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Williams and Mr. Gaskins amended their motions to recess the meeting until after the Law and Finance Committee meeting. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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CORNELIA P. OLIVE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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BONNIE D. WHITE, CITY CLERK

