

WINSTON-SALEM FINANCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET WORKSHOP
Council Chambers
101 N. Main Street
June 9, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and stated all Committee Members were present.

Present:

Council Member Robert Clark, Chair
Mayor Pro Tempore Denise D. Adams, Vice Chair
Council Member Jeff MacIntosh
Council Member James Taylor, Jr.

Additional Attendees:

Mayor Allen Joines
Council Member John Larson
Council Member Annette Scippio
Council Member Kevin Mundy
Council Member Barbara Hanes Burke

1. Review of Responses to Questions From Mayor and Council Members.

Lee Garrity, City Manager, welcomed everyone and stated staff was looking for direction and guidance. He noted there are some changes that have been requested by the Council and looks forward to a successful budget.

Scott Tesh, Director of Budget and Performance Management Department, answered questions from the Committee regarding the response package.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams noted her concerns regarding the difference in golf rounds at Reynolds Park Golf course verses Winston Lake.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, Mr. Tesh responded there is one million dollars in the FY 23 Limited Obligations Bonds package for additional changes and marketing for the course.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams suggested the City consider hiring a consultant to help with this project and would like a report each month regarding the details of the Winston Lake golf course.

Council Member Mundy would like comparative data regarding the decrease in bus passengers in comparison with other cities.

Clark noted his concern with ridership and cost for the transit system.

Council Member Larson requested a report of revenue generated from various grants the City has received.

Council Member Clark requested a report regarding the GO bonds and the percent per household allowed by the rating agency as well as information regarding the revenue bonds. He noted his concerns regarding adding positions to the Community Development Department when they currently have 15 vacant.

2. Finance Committee Changes to the Proposed Budget.

Mr. Tesh presented two staff requested changes to the budget which are the Summer and After School Tutoring Program and Behavioral Evaluation and Response Team.

Mr. Tesh and City Manager Lee Garrity responded to several questions and concerns.

In response to Council Member Mundy, Mr. Tesh stated he would provide information regarding appropriations of ARPA funds and what is still unencumbered. He noted that a Special Meeting of the Winston-Salem City Council is being proposed in late August regarding ARPA.

3. Consideration of a Recommended Budget and Property Tax Rate.

Chair Clark asked if there were anyone that would like to recommend changes to the Budget.

Council Member Mundy addressed the Firefighter pay verses the Police pay and asked that it be reconsidered.

Council Member Clark called for a motion regarding the Fire pay plan.

Council Member Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, to move forward with Fire Pay plan with 5% promotions to FF2 and Master FF and 10% compression adjustment above.

Mayor Joines asked how this would be paid for and if this would impact the tax rate.

Mr. Tesh provided some options to pay for the adjustments.

Council Member Taylor stated he is not in favor of a tax increase and would recommend using sales tax and the general fund. Mayor Pro Tempore accepted this request as a friendly amendment to the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Clark asked for a vote on the Behavioral Evaluation and Response Team (BEAR TEAM).

Council Member Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, to add \$700,000 to the Budget from ARPA funds for the BEAR Team. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Clark asked for a vote on the summer and after school tutoring program which will be paid by sale tax.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams made a motion, seconded by Council Member Taylor, to add the summer and after school tutoring program to the budget in the estimated amount of \$75,000 paid for by sale tax revenue. Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Council Members: MacIntosh, Taylor, and Mayor Pro Tempore Adams

Nay: None

Abstained: Council Member Clark

4. Preview and Consideration of Recommended Budget Items to be Included in the City Council Agenda for June 21, 2022:

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams made a motion, seconded by Council Member MacIntosh, to approve setting the tax rate at 63.6 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, seconded by Council Member MacIntosh, to approve the \$625.8 million dollar Budget including the adjustments approved earlier. Motion carried unanimously.

- a. Resolution Approving the Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 Through 2027-2028 as a Financial Planning Guide.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, seconded by Council Member MacIntosh, to approve the Resolution approving the Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 through 2027-2028 as a financial guide. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Resolution Approving a One-Time Supplement Payment for the City of Winston-Salem Police Officers' Retirement System for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Lisa Saunders, Chief Financial Officer, provided some comments regarding this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member MacIntosh, for approval of agenda item 4b. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Resolution Adopting Financial Policies for the City of Winston-Salem.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, seconded by Council Member MacIntosh, to approve agenda item 4c. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Resolution Approving Merit Pay for Eligible Employees, Amending Article II of the City of Winston-Salem Personnel Resolution to Add and Delete Position Classifications, to Create New Public Safety Pay Plans, and Revise Employee Evaluation Categories.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, seconded by Council Member MacIntosh, to approve agenda item 4d.

Lee Garrity, City Manager, stated the current resolution does not include the changes made by the Committee previously regarding the fire fighter pay and that those changes would be included in the amended resolution.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Next Steps:

- a. City Council Meeting Public Hearing and Budget Adoption - June 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.