

Finance Committee Budget Workshop
Virtual Meeting
June 3, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated due to the Safer-At-Home Order, all Committee Members are participating virtually. For virtual meetings, Committee Members will be muted until asked to be heard. When there is a vote, it will be necessary to conduct a roll call vote. A Committee Member will be recognized, raise their hand, and state their vote.

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:

Council Member John Larson
Council Member Annette Scippio
Council Member Kevin Mundy
Council Member Barbara Hanes Burke

1. Review of Responses to Council Questions.

Patrice Toney, Budget and Evaluation Director, provided the staff report for this item.

Council Member MacIntosh requested staff look into decreasing the budget by 2 million dollars to be able to lower the tax rate by 1 cent. He also requested an efficiency commission be created after the budget processed is finalized.

Council Member Burke stated she failed to include a dollar amount with her previous crime prevention plan and requested \$250,000. She also suggested a gun buyback program, and requested \$50,000 for it. She also suggested staff focus on implementing crime prevention programs with youth in high crime areas.

Council Member Mundy requested the theatre alliance receive funds. He also noted his concern that some of the organizations that were proposed to receive money do not have nondiscrimination policies that include sexual orientation. He stated that he would prefer if all organizations that receive money were required to submit a signed statement acknowledging they have nondiscrimination policies in place prior to receiving the funds.

Council Member Scippio stated that she wanted the budget to include increased funds for

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housing rehabilitation. She also stated that she was in favor of focusing more on prevention programs that focus on young adults and families. She also noted the need to improve the greens and fairways at Winston Lake Golf Course. as we;; as the ballpark and football fields at Winston Lake.

Council Member Taylor requested Assistant Chief Weaver to look into the past gun buyback program and present it to the Public Safety Committee.

Council Member Clark discussed his thoughts on the proposed budget and asked for more information regarding the fund balance reserves, LED lights, space leased by the City, bus system, fairgrounds, police forfeiture funds, pools and splash pads, recycling, Utilities' accounts receivable, cemeteries, debt service fund reserves, SOAR programs, and ARPA funds.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams spoke about the importance of not closing things in communities that are already under served.

Council Member Scippio requested further information regarding the community agencies proposed to receive funds.

Council Member Clark requested the current and proposed property tax rates for Winston-Salem and the other five major cities in North Carolina.

Council Member Taylor requested information on the bankruptcy court.

2. Community Agency Funding Recommendations.
3. Other Topics for Discussion.

Next Steps:

- a. Finance Committee Workshop - Thursday, June 10, 4:00 p.m.
- b. City Council Meeting Public Hearing and Budget Adoption - Monday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.