

City of West Columbia, SC

Public Hearing on Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

June 2, 2015 at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor
Casey Jordan Hallman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Eric L. Fowler
L. Dale Harley
Temus C. Miles, Jr.
Tommy Parler
Teddy Wingard
B.J. Unthank
Boyd J. Jones

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator	Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator	Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Brian Carter, Assistant City Administrator	Rick Hodge, Financial Consultant
Wayne Shuler, Director of Planning and Zoning	Stuart Jones, Building Official
Jamie Hook, Sanitation/Street/Parks Superintendent	Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development	Justin Black, City Treasurer
Anna Huffman, IT Systems Administrator	Kelli Ricard, City Clerk
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering	Scott Morrison, PIO/West Columbia PD
Mardi Valentino, Director of Human Resources	Larry Hall, Equipment Services Manager

Members of the Public and Press

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Chairperson Unthank called the public hearing to order at 6 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, The Columbia Star* and radio and television stations were notified of the public hearing by e-mail on May 29, 2015.

Agenda Item II – Opening Remarks

Chairperson Unthank recognized City Treasurer Justin Black who gave a brief overview of the budget plan for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Mr. Black said General Fund expenses are balanced at \$12,710,000, which is a 1.3 percent (1.3%) decrease over FY 2014-2015. The General Fund property tax revenue was estimated using 55.279 on operating mils and 6.6 in debt service mils.

Mr. Black described the primary sources of General Fund revenues as including property taxes, business licenses fees, state rebates, hydrant and fire protection fees, police fines and fees, interest, permits, sale of assets and other miscellaneous revenue, transfer from the Water/Sewer Fund and anticipated grant funds.

Mr. Black stated the proposed General Fund budget has been balanced without any increases in taxes or fees. Mr. Black said the recommended FY 2014-2015 transfer to the General Fund from the Water/Sewer Fund is \$2,465,000, which is only a \$25,000 increase over the current fiscal year amount.

Mr. Black stated the proposed budget plan includes a two-percent (2%) across-the-board, cost-of-living increase effective July 1, 2015 and up to a three-percent (3%) merit increase for employees with satisfactory performance evaluations to be awarded on the anniversary of employment.

Public Hearing on Budget for FY 2015-2016

June 2, 2015

Page Two

Agenda Item II – Opening Remarks - continued

Mr. Black said the city's share of health insurance premiums is increasing seven percent (7.0%). The city's contribution to employee retirement is increasing three percent (0.3%). Mr. Black recommended that the city continue to pay the employees' portion of the monthly premium for health insurance, which is included in the proposed budget.

Mr. Black explained that 80.4 percent (80.4%) of General Fund expenditures go to the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works, all of which provide essential services to the citizens of West Columbia.

The Lease Purchase Financing budgeted for the proposed fiscal year 2015-2016 is in the General Fund. The total General Fund Lease Purchase will be \$95,500.00 and will be financed over a five (5) year period.

Chairperson Unthank asked if any council members had any comments or questions on the proposed budget for FY 2015-2016 and received no response.

Agenda Item III – Public Comments on Budget for FY 2015-2016

Chairperson Unthank asked if any members of the public had any comments or questions on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and received no response.

Agenda Item IV – Adjourn

Chairperson Unthank declared the public hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2015-2016 adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Ricard,
City Clerk