

**City Council Budget Work Session
May 30, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in work session on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 in Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Kirk Rivers
Councilman Johnson Biggs
Councilman Joseph Peel
Councilman Javis Gibbs (*Arrived at 6:02 p.m.*)
Councilwoman Katherine Felton
Councilman Johnnie Walton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Kem Spence
Councilwoman Rose Whitehurst
Councilwoman Barbara Baxter

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Montre' Freeman
Chief of Police J. Phillip Webster
Finance Director, Alicia Steward
Assistant Finance Director Brian Lewis
Human Resources Director Montique McClary
Electric Superintendent Donnell White
Interim Community Development Director Reggie Goodson
Deputy Chief of Police James Avens
Public Utilities Director Dwan Bell
Parks and Recreation Director Sean Clark
Grants Administrator Jon Hawley
Fire Chief Chris Carver
ECDI Director Debbie Malenfant
IT Director Matthew Simpson
IT Systems Analyst Pedro Holley II
City Clerk April Onley

Mayor Rivers called the Budget Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m. He provided the invocation, after which Councilman Peel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Presentation – General Fund Budget Presentation for FY 2023-2024
Continued;**

Manager Freeman advised that he'd distributed "change-out" sheets for replacements in the Council's budget books and they'd need to swap out those pages as directed. He noted that they were still waiting on the retirement numbers. Director Steward said the general retirement and law enforcement retirement numbers had increased, so they would be receiving changes there as well. Mayor Rivers asked what that difference would be. Director Steward said they were still calculating those and did not have the final numbers in place yet.

Councilman Peel asked what we were going to do about the \$543,000 for capital outlay improvement that was tied up in Parks and Rec. He noted the Council had asked that to be broken down during the last budget session. Director Steward said they were still working on that. Councilman Peel said he was also concerned about the fact that we hadn't figured in the \$15 an hour for the part-time or temporary employees, which was going to be a significant increase. Manager Freeman agreed and said they were working on that piece as well. Mayor Rivers agreed that we would need that in this budget due to the changes coming down the pipeline effective January 1st. Director Steward asked if

they'd like a pullout sheet for each department once the data was completed or if they'd like a spreadsheet. Mayor Rivers said it was going to change all of the numbers, so they'd need everything. He advised the Council to put a question mark beside Parks and Recreation for the time being because they could not complete that discussion without the formal breakdown.

He continued to Non-Departmental. He asked if that's where the Council intended to put the Boys and Girls Club's funding. Councilman Biggs said that was already indicated in the change-out sheet they'd just received. Mayor Rivers stated that the change-out sheets were good, but they needed to keep a running total because they needed to know how much they were going to need to cut due to these changes. Councilman Biggs noted that he had a spreadsheet that kept reductions and additions and might be helpful to use. Manager Freeman said we are currently off \$126,125 and would need to cut to rebalance. He said we'd have a spreadsheet to the Council by Thursday. Mayor Rivers asked what that number included reducing the contingency fund to? Director Steward said she believed it was \$30,000, but she'd verify in the information she'd send.

Mayor Rivers asked if we'd received some numbers back that had decreased - Was it workers comp? Manager Freeman said workers comp did go down as did FICA, but it looked like with the retirement increase, we'd be back to where we were.

Councilman Biggs asked about the donation to Albemarle Area United Way – what was it for? Assistant Director Lewis advised that was from COVID relief funding. Mayor Rivers and Councilman Biggs recommended dropping that funding since we were not supporting any other nonprofits. Mayor Rivers said he felt that we should support Arts of the Albemarle, as they were a flagship nonprofit in the downtown area and help our community thrive. He suggested giving them \$5,000 in support. Councilman Biggs suggested putting that on a “wish list” and seeing how that worked out. Mayor Rivers stated that he felt it was best to put their wants on the table now so they're not trying to figure everything out at the very end. Councilman Walton said at one point we considered many different nonprofits as eligible for funding.

Mayor Rivers turned the Council's attention to the Human Resources Department. Director McClary said HR currently had four full-time positions and one part-time position, which was a full staff for the department. Manager Freeman said he'd increased contracted services based on the suggestion to update the employee manual, as it was outdated. Mayor Rivers asked if they intended to hire an outside firm to update the policy. Director McClary said that was correct. Councilwoman Felton said we'd worked with certain firms before who had not charged if you were a municipal government and had updated within a certain amount of time. Director McClary said the firm that responded to them quoted \$5,000 for their services. Mayor Rivers asked what the \$43,000 in contracted services was for. Director McClary noted that was for all services, including NeoGov, Novatime, email service, LaserFiche, LearnLux and so on. Mayor Rivers asked of that, what was essential? Director McClary said it was all essential. They'd worked their way up to being as progressive as they could be in the space, so she could not say there was anything she did not need. Councilman Biggs asked what was the process for updating the employee manual? Was it a lot of technical language that had to be in there? What goes into rewriting the policy? Director McClary said they would look at what we currently had and create a more comprehensive draft, including the most current and practical language. They would also give us different types of sample letters for discipline, promotion, performance evaluation, appeal processes, and termination. Everything would be very formalized and included in the new policy. Manager Freeman pointed out that the other thing to consider was that there are new cultures in place that were not in place 30 years ago when our original policy was created and we want to make sure we are in the safest legal space. He noted that the original cost for all contracted services was \$51,000, but lowered to \$43,000 because he'd been able to spread some of those across all departments as they were utilized by numerous departments.

Councilman Biggs asked about the 2% salary increase for training – was that still being suspended until it could be looked into? Manager Freeman said it was suspended, but it was calculated just in case the Council did not vote to go along with the suspension. Councilman Biggs asked if the 2% salary increases came from HR. Manager Freeman said they did not, they came from the individual departments, it was just overseen by HR. Most of the money for the 2% increases came from lapsed salaries. Councilman Biggs

asked about the Wellness Program reflecting a negative amount. Manager Freeman said that's because we get reimbursed. Mayor Rivers praised the wellness initiatives the City was taking and hoped we could keep those going.

Councilwoman Felton noted that the amount of time employees accrued had not been changed in many years. Is this the time to look into that or is there a later time? Manager Freeman said he'd written a corrective action plan for that item in the audit. After speaking with Mr. Bittner, it was determined that we calculate it correctly, but the way the wording is written, it seems like we're doing it differently. There were two employees that were on our ledger that shouldn't have been on the ledger. When they looked at how we calculate firefighters, there were some questions as well. Councilwoman Felton said that was something different – she was actually talking about the actual hourly accrual for employees. She felt that needed to be looked into. Manager Freeman said they'd be checking that piece as well with the policy rewrite.

Mayor Rivers directed the Council's attention to the IT Department. Director Simpson advised that he had three full-time employees only. Councilman Peel asked what the additional employees being requested for this department were. Director Simpson said one of the new positions would be solely focused on cyber security management. Manager Freeman noted that the County had been breached several times and it had cost them a large amount of money. He reminded the Council that we'd had to suspend access to the Greg Isley Firm during the audit because of an ID that wasn't supposed to be there, so we'd had to treat it as a breach. Mayor Rivers pointed out that he believed we needed these IT positions, but we also needed to try to find money for our current employees. He felt one of these positions might be something we had to forgo this year to get where we needed to be. He noted that he was not saying we didn't need these positions, but we did need other things too. Councilman Peel pointed out that this is a specialized area – have we thought about contracting? Director Simpson said we had. He noted that our network was growing and he could not continue to maintain it by himself. We could keep dragging it along, but it creates vulnerability because he cannot watch it on his own. Councilman Peel asked what the second position was. Director Simpson said it was a systems analyst, which is like PJ's position. It would allow them to stop delaying things with maintenance. Councilman Peel asked if he had to pick one position, which one would he pick? Director Simpson said the systems analyst was his top choice. Councilwoman Felton noted that the needs of IT will continue to increase. She felt we should try to find somewhere else to cut if possible. Councilman Walton agreed that the world was evolving and quickly. Director Simpson stated that we have grown tremendously and they are now trying to monitor numerous social media platforms, and there's a huge amount of tasks placed on IT. You don't know how important things are until you have failure. We've only lost internet once for a 24-hour period and we operate 24/7. Councilman Walton said he felt that if we did not change with the times, we would run into issues. He agreed that IT was very important. Councilman Biggs said he agreed as well, and he didn't want to be sitting there in six months after a data breach, but he was more in favor of finding a good vendor to handle our cyber security than hiring someone full-time. Director Simpson said we had contracted in the past, but it was hard to explain because we had so many in-points. We had huge radio networks, smart meters with cellular gateways, amongst other things. When you talk about managing cyber security, a lot of it is putting in standards and policies. He found that specialists can help us with putting measures in place, but it's hard to find the skillset. He believed it was harder to do with a vendor because they'd probably spend a year analyzing our network and he felt it needed to be an every day thing. It didn't need to be something they looked at and then told us what to do.

Councilman Biggs asked what other municipalities did who didn't have a specialist on staff? Director Simpson said some of them contracted but in his opinion, it was wasted money. Things could happen any day, all day and things had to be configured properly for a robust cyber security plan. You will always have to worry about security breaches because nothing is fool proof, but if we had someone on site, it would be easier. The County also only has three people, but we have a lot more infrastructure than they do.

Councilwoman Felton recalled a time when something was happening with IT, maybe the internet was down and there were long lines and people weren't able to pay their bills. The City was unable to process them. You don't realize how important a service is until it's broken. She knew the IT staff worked extremely hard and sometimes when people

worked really hard, people think everything is working alright, and it's easy to forget you need more support there too. Councilman Walton said when you have people in the organization on your own team, it's always in your best interest and better than outsourcing. Director Simpson said he was always skeptical about vendors and giving people access to our systems. Mayor Rivers said his comments were not about the IT Department and he did not want to cut both positions, he just wanted to try to figure out how to get our existing employees a raise. The key is that we have to balance the budget and give employees a raise. If we cut one position, I'm not saying it won't be at the top of the list next year. Next year, the budget should be easier. Greg Isley and PB Mares should be paid off next year. Are these positions dire this year? That's what I'm asking.

Councilman Walton agreed the Mayor's argument was a good one, but they needed to vote on what was more important to the organization. He asked if it would be easier for the manager if they gave him some more votes with solid ideas. He worried that they were bringing up the same things over and over. Mayor Rivers noted this was the time to talk about these things because we're going department by department, but we also need to identify how we're going to give the employees a raise. The \$500 increase is not in the budget. Councilman Walton said we did not want to wait until the final hour to figure these items out. He noted that the majority of the Council was not present this evening to decide these things tonight.

Councilman Biggs pointed out that there were other things in the budget aside from just the two new employees, but if we didn't want to raise taxes, we were going to need to start cutting. He asked Director Simpson if there was anything in capital outlay that could possibly be cut. Director Simpson said there may be about \$20,000 that could be removed depending on what technology the meter readers were going to continue with. If they move forward with Nexgrid Water, it would allow smart reading for water or they would invest in drive-by solutions. If they are going to go with Nexgrid Water, the \$20,000 could be excluded. But at this time, they are depending on four handheld solutions that are near end-of-life. Councilman Biggs noted the Itron Mobile was not for IT, it was for Electric, so why were we not coding the expense to the proper fund? He'd seen that in a few areas, but more so in the IT budget. He felt we should take the load off the general fund and put it in the enterprise fund because we're not technically being accurate about the cost of doing business there. We have IT paying expenses for items they aren't even using. Director Simpson said he assumed it was there because he put an emphasis on it and it may end up getting ignored if he didn't. Manager Freeman said he agreed, but this was the way this budget had been set up for some time. He would like to go through and reclassify in the coming year. Some of the things being asked for will help simplify the process. Councilman Peel suggested we do that, as we may free up some money. Mayor Rivers said he agreed as well. He understood that no one wanted to cut from their department, but somehow we have to cut. He did not want anyone to think he was picking on their department, and the only reason he started with IT was because they were adding personnel. He wanted to make sure our existing employees had something. He noted that we could always hold something off now and bring it back later through amendments. He asked if we could drop purchases for other departments down from \$80,000 to \$75,000. Director Simpson said he could work with that amount.

Councilman Peel asked about the \$48,000 for capital outlay improvements for pump stations – could that be moved into a different fund? Director Simpson said that total was going to be changing as we'd found a new vendor, but he'd not been able to edit it yet. He pointed out that our inventory management system was still in Logics and needed to be moved to Edmunds. Councilman Biggs noted that was for purchasing. Mayor Rivers clarified that they were transitioning \$48,000 and \$17,500 to different funds. Councilman Peel said we're trying to get money back in the general fund and if we can move things out of that fund to the funds it should technically be under, then we should do that. Director Simpson agreed that he was just the facilitator. Manager Freeman said they also agreed to cut the \$19,700 for Nexgrid Water. Mayor Rivers asked if that request was in the budget? Manager Freeman said it was not in there yet. Councilman Peel said they'd need to keep it where it was for now then. Mayor Rivers asked about the hosting fees. Director Simpson said the idea was that ElectriCities was getting out of the hosting game and we were going to bring the hosting on site, which was going to save us some money. He believed those fees may come from data processing. We will be setting the stage for our own server. The \$24,000 is a one-time expense, but it will save us money in the long term. If we had Tyler host it for us, it will cost us \$38,000. **Mayor Rivers reiterated that**

he'd like to take the \$80,900 purchases for other departments back down to \$75,000. Director Simpson confirmed that he could get by with that.

Mayor Rivers advised that the Council would move to ECDI. Director Malenfant stated that her department consisted of only one full-time person. Councilman Biggs asked what the contracted services in her department was. Director Malenfant replied that it was for anything that was not specific to ECDI, and she'd never spent more than \$1,000.

Mayor Rivers asked if the Council had any questions about any of the departments while the department heads were present. Manager Freeman noted that the Council had requested information from Chief Webster about the shots fired cameras and he did have that information. Chief Webster said the Acumen, which served the shots fired had 10 cameras and was \$107,495. The software licensing fee was annual and \$250 per camera. There was also a one-time fee of nearly \$10,000 for integration and calibration, so roughly an extra \$1,000 per camera by the time you factor it all in. Councilman Biggs asked if 10 sensors would be enough. Chief Webster said he felt it was a good start, but we would have to look at it yearly and add to it. Councilman Biggs said if we were to spend the money and install it, and we figured out that it wasn't nearly enough so it was ineffective, we'd have to add more. He wanted to make sure if we did it, we'd get what we wanted to get out of it. Mayor Rivers asked for the price on five additional security cameras for the city. Chief Webster said based on the numbers he'd received, one would be \$3,793, so five would be \$18,593. Mayor Rivers asked how does IT tie into the cameras? Chief Webster said Mr. Pete installs the cameras and we have a maintenance plan with Pete Electric. Mayor Rivers said he felt they should add the cameras onto their wish list because we needed at least five to 10 cameras. He noted the next meeting, the Council needed to know how much they were short so they could determine where exactly they'd need to start making cuts.

Mayor Rivers asked Chief Webster asked if we'd written to ask the Governor for any reimbursements for the Andrew Brown shooting? Manager Freeman said we did reach out in 2021, but we didn't hear anything back. Mayor Rivers said we may want to reach out again. He asked how many of our cameras are working now. Chief Webster said they were all working and we had 117 of them in the city. Director Simpson said we had about 140 including the ones in our buildings. Councilman Gibbs said he felt Chief Webster had a good idea about getting some firm numbers. We may need someone to look at what we have to determine what we'd need. Could that company do something like that to tell us how many we really need for proper coverage? Chief Webster said yes. He said if we just went with 10, we'd probably put them in parks rather than neighborhoods. Mayor Rivers noted there are two separate types of cameras here – one is the shots fired, which we do not have any of and the other are the cameras we do currently have, which we are trying to add to. He felt that we should try to add to what we already have right now. Chief Webster said we're trying to get grants as well. Councilman Biggs said he had we discussed maybe \$28,000 for cameras. We also said another \$30,000 for animal control. Are those figures in this budget or are they part of the \$126,000 deficit? He noted it was difficult to make a decision without knowing where we're at. Manager Freeman said that the corrections were made for animal control, so that was included, but the cameras were not because the Council still wanted some additional information. Councilman Biggs clarified that the \$28,000 for cameras was not in the \$126,000 deficit. Manager Freeman confirmed that it was not. He said he would get the Council a spreadsheet with all the requested items. Mayor Rivers noted that the \$500 for employees was not included in the shortfall either. Councilman Biggs recommended a spreadsheet that showed everything they've added and everything they've taken away so they can work from there. He noted that raising taxes was not an option for him.

Mayor Rivers noted that cameras are \$3,700, so how many are the Council looking for? Councilman Peel said somewhere between five and 10. Councilwoman Felton agreed that we'd need at least five. Chief Webster said their intel center had already worked on where they'd like any cameras they may get to be stationed. Councilman Biggs noted that we know we get results with the cameras, we have a proven track record. **Mayor Rivers suggested putting 10 cameras in for now, which would bring that amount to \$38,000.** Councilman Walton said he'd like the Acumen cameras, at least four of them. Councilman Biggs said they may not sell us four – the proposal was at least 10. was it not? Chief Webster said they just gave us an estimate for 10, but they may give an estimate for less. Councilman Walton asked which Chief Webster felt would be more

helpful to him. Chief Webster said at this time, the regular cameras would serve the highest purpose. Mayor Rivers noted that it didn't mean we wouldn't get them at some point, we were just putting them off for now.

At 6:59 p.m. Mayor Rivers announced there would be a brief recess before moving onto Enterprise Funds.

Mayor Rivers called the meeting back to order at 7:09 p.m.

He brought the Council's attention to the Electric Fund, beginning with Data Processing. Councilman Biggs questioned the increase in contracted services, considering we'd just been advised that we'd be saving money due to hosting. Director Steward said the date may have something to do with it. Manager Freeman said the number may go down if you do as what's proposed, but he had to leave it as is until the Council decided otherwise. Mayor Rivers directed the Council to make a note there, as that \$108,000 may be decreasing. Councilman Biggs noted that we had a significant increase in that line item last year.

Councilman Biggs asked if we were on target to hit the \$31 million budgeted in electric revenue this year. Director Steward said we had several cycles left in this fiscal year and she did believe that we would hit it.

Councilman Biggs asked Director Simpson for clarification on the contracted services. When would the \$24,000 reduction happen? Director Simpson said he expected to get the servers in July with completion maybe in March. Councilman Biggs asked if we'd carry the expense the entire year. Director Simpson said he wasn't sure and he'd have to find out from Electricities. If we do commit to the servers, they will be installed immediately, but the migration will take some time, with the earliest being January and as far out as March. Councilman Biggs stated that we'd probably be keeping that line item then.

Mayor Rivers asked if the Council had any questions about Purchasing. He asked if there was a major project next year that was going to require a forklift. Manager Freeman said we are currently renting a forklift and they are now proposing we buy one. He suggested that we rent or lease one, but had not had an opportunity to find out what the lease amount would be, so that's where that amount was coming from. Councilman Biggs asked where the expense was being coded. Director Steward said it was in departmental supplies. Councilman Biggs said he was not a fan of continuing to rent something, although he understood owning things and having liability. He felt that forklifts probably had a low maintenance cost and fairly little risk. We're spending a lot of money to put off a purchase. He did like the leasing option, and he'd be okay with a rent-to-own, but he was not a fan of simply continuing to rent, though he understood if we had to continue the process this year.

Non-Departmental for Electric – Councilman Biggs asked when we'd the numbers back for the employee clinic? Manager Freeman said the cost was spread across everyone. Director McClary said they have a new process that had to go through the legal department and she followed up Friday and was waiting for it back. Councilman Biggs asked when we'd get the dollar figure for what we'd spent this year. Director McClary said she'd reach out tomorrow to try to get that. Councilman Biggs asked what the annual dinner and pay was. Manager Freeman said that was the Christmas party, which was also split across departments. Mayor Rivers asked if we could pull the \$17,500 from contingency as well as employee raises. Manager Freeman said that we could. Director Steward noted that enterprise funds are expenses and the contingency fund line item here helps us balance the budget. Mayor Rivers clarified that it was only things connected to the electric that could come from here, correct? Director Steward said that was correct. Mayor Rivers asked how many of the \$500 bonuses could come from there? Director Steward said it depended on whether they wanted to go with \$500, \$1,000 or \$1,500. She had created a schedule and there were 26 employees in this fund if they went with a \$500 increase. Councilman Biggs said they should be cautious about what gets taken out of there. Mayor Rivers said we're looking at about \$45,000 from this particular fund between the 26 employees and the \$17,500. What would Council be willing to take out of the contingency? Councilman Biggs said we knew we had enough money there to not worry about it, so he suggested worrying about the funds where we were struggling a bit more.

Customer Service – Councilman Peel asked about the increase in salaries and wages. Director Steward said they also include the Christmas bonuses, longevity, employee appreciation. Councilman Peel clarified that's an addition of \$30,000? Director Steward said that was correct. Councilman Biggs asked what exactly what included in the salaries and wages line. Does it include insurance and everything else? Director Steward said it includes the Christmas bonus and longevity because they're calculated as part of the base salary for each employee. Councilman Biggs asked if that department was fully staffed now? Manager Freeman said that they were and they'd transitioned some of the employees to a four-day work week, which had attracted more talent. Councilman Biggs asked what time they worked now. Manager Freeman said it was 7:30 to 6:30 now, so they have time to get some additional training. Councilman Biggs asked if once the training is finished are we expanding lobby hours? Manager Freeman said they had not talked through that yet. Councilman Biggs suggested if we're doing that, we extend at least the drive-through window in addition to the kiosk.

Electric Distribution – Councilman Peel said he felt some of the increases that had happened here should have been brought before the Council previously. Manager Freeman agreed and he said when he did the police increases and restructuring, he brought that forward and he would do that in the future. Mr. White said they were fully staffed at one point in 2022, but then lost three or four guys. Councilman Biggs asked what's the reality of adding personnel, money-wise? Mr. White said they'll have to start out as groundsmen and move up. Their particular schooling is a four-year program. Mayor Rivers asked out of the salaries and wages line items, how many employees are budgeted? Is it fully staffed? Mr. White said yes. Mayor Rivers asked what we'd been operating with over the last few years. Director Bell said about 19 for distribution and five others. We'd operated with about 12 previously. There were about five positions open. Mayor Rivers said he just wanted to figure out how many we realistically were going to get. He asked if he felt he'd find three to bring him to 15? He wanted the numbers to be real. If you say you can operate with 15, let's budget for 15. That's what we did with the police department. Mr. White said if they take it away, they'll be in trouble because they have to school them and move it up. Councilman Biggs said we felt it was unlikely we'd find the people in the police department – are you saying you'll find everyone you need? Director Bell said they'll find someone if they open the groundsmen position. They won't get the educated positions. Councilman Biggs said he didn't mind giving him the money if he could fill them. Director Bell said he felt a safe number would be 15. Councilwoman Felton asked what the four load management people were doing? Mr. White said they were doing peak shaving and generators and all of that. Director Bell said they are the ones who manage the peak shaving and generators to the buildings. Councilwoman Felton asked if they installed meters in people's homes like the switches? Director Bell said Mr. Gordon's team used to do that on request. Councilman Peel said he'd always been concerned about us not having enough or being able to keep enough certain employees. So we can get these electric employees and get them in the pipeline, but can we keep them? Mr. White said we could not compete with other areas or contractors. Councilman Peel noted that if you look at who has left the electric department in the last year or so, it's huge. We are in trouble if we have a major crisis. Mr. White said a contractor having to come in could cost us millions. Councilman Peel said he'd like them to come back at the next meeting and tell them what they should raise the journeyman's salaries to in order to keep them. Councilman Biggs said he'd also like a reasonable amount of employees because we can't do 19 and raise the pay. Director Bell said he did think 15 could do it. Councilman Walton said we could do a salary range so if it came back to the manager again, it wouldn't have to come back to the Council, he could make the decision. Councilman Peel said we need to look at what other people are paying. Mayor Rivers reiterated that needed to give us what the pay is, where it needed to go and those 15 or whatever the number was so we could plug that in.

Councilman Biggs noted we'd spent a fair amount of money on the install cost for the new hospital. Was the \$225,000 going to cover the finish out of that project? Mr. White said it was not. Councilman Biggs said he did not want to have a surprise. Director Bell said they'd be putting that out in the next week or so and should have something in the next month. Councilman Biggs clarified that the \$225,000 was likely not going to cover it though? Mr. White said the materials should have already been ordered and we were waiting on them to come in. Director Bell said as the invoices came in, they were paying invoices at that time, but he would check into it. They did it as a phased approach. He

said he would verify with Purchasing though. Councilman Biggs asked if a bulk of it was still waiting to come in? Mr. White said we were still waiting on some of it to come in, but he didn't know if it had been paid for or not. Councilman Biggs asked if it was going to cover the install cost? Director Bell said we would not know until it was actually bid. Councilman Peel asked where that money was going to come from? Director Bell said we'd probably have to do an amendment. Councilman Biggs said he understood that, but we don't want to think we've got more money than we've got, because we're going to have to pay for that install. Mayor Rivers reminded the Council of the permitting fees for the hospital. Councilman Biggs said that went to the general fund and he didn't think it could be moved. Mayor Rivers said they'd have to find out.

Manager Freeman asked Director Bell if he felt this would be a multi-year or single year project. Director Bell replied that they were told they could knock it out within a year. Until they had the numbers back, they were going to be expecting an amendment for now. Councilman Biggs asked what the \$225,000 that was budgeted now was for. Manager Freeman said that was just to put some money there because we knew something was coming as far as the work on the project.

Mayor Rivers asked if the City used to do their own tree trimming? Mr. White said we did, but it would be \$30,000 to fix our truck and then we needed someone to be certified to run it, plus the chipper and we just did not have the employees so it was contracted out. Mayor Rivers asked if we were going to sell the truck. Director Bell said he'd like to fix it and give it to the pump station guys to pull the pumps. Councilman Biggs asked what we could sell the truck for? Mr. White said he had a contractor look at it but he only wanted the body of the truck and bed, but he didn't remember how much he wanted to pay for it. Councilman Biggs said he did not think we should put \$30,000 into a 10-year-old truck and we should maybe see how much we could see it for. Mayor Rivers asked them to find out what we might be able to get for it if we sold it.

Councilman Biggs asked what the \$55,000 capital outlay item was. Manager Freeman said it was the trucks they needed in a lease agreement. Mayor Rivers asked about the \$50,000 for line improvements. Mr. White said that was the feed for the area out by Forrest Park and Walmart. Mayor Rivers asked if we had budgeted the million for the hospital project. Councilman Biggs said we did not, we did a budget amendment for it. Director Bell noted that the quotes didn't come in until after the budget was done. Councilman Biggs said he didn't even think the item was in the budget at all.

Mayor Rivers asked what we're budgeting the \$100,000 for Stockbridge for. Mr. White said they have a new phase coming up. Manager Freeman said we don't expect 160 houses to come on in the fiscal year, but we think enough will that it will allow us to collect what we need to collect.

Mayor Rivers reiterated that the Council would be getting a list of all the added projects. He noted they would add one more extra meeting for next Monday, June 5th at 5:00 p.m. before calling for the public hearing on June 12th for June 26th.

2. Adjournment:

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Rivers adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

E. Kirk Rivers
Mayor

April D. Onley
City Clerk, NCCMC