



**TOWN OF AYDEN
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

April 27, 2015 – 6:30 pm (Special Called Meeting – Budget Workshop)
Ayden Town Hall – Second Floor Boardroom

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

Mayor Tripp called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

B. Roll Call

Present:

Mayor Tripp

Commissioners Davenport, Harris, Mewborn, Skinner and Ross

Absent:

Sherry Scharf – Town Clerk

Also Present:

Brandon Holland – Town Manager

Alicia Simpson – Finance Director

II. DISCUSSION

In this second budget workshop, Town Manager Brandon Holland and Finance Director Alicia Simpson presented a revised draft budget with proposed funding focused on the following:

- Public safety enhancements
- Infrastructure
- Storm water solutions

Specific expenditures presented and proposed include:

- \$60,000 in new and used police vehicles
- \$8,000 in surveillance equipment for detectives
- \$50,000 for water-sewer infrastructure to properties around the SW Bypass area
- \$50,000 down payment on loan for a new fire equipment truck
- \$100,000 for an Inflow & Infiltration Study that would inspect up to 80% of the Town's water lines and recommend solutions
- Maintaining \$40,000 in budget for storm water improvements
- \$25,000 for cooling system in the Arts & Recreation gym
- \$56,000 for new street sweeper (using Powell Bill funds instead of financing)

- \$5,000 for municipal elections
- \$13,000 in support for the Ayden Chamber of Commerce (\$2,000 less than requested)
- Support for the Collard Festival at \$5,000 (same as last FY)
- Total support for the 3 Ayden schools at \$9,000 (same as last FY)

Other items discussed include:

- Placing a “liquor-by-the-drink” proposal on the ballot for November election
- Cost-benefit analysis for current part-time Customer Service Representative going to full-time position
- Looking for cost savings by negotiating the Town’s loan rates, if possible
- Soliciting bids from other auditing firms for the Town’s annual finance audit

Recommendations/Budget Adjustments

Town Manager Holland believes that the FY 2015-16 can be balanced without utility rate increases; however he proposed and the Board considered a \$3.00 monthly storm water utility fee per customer, which he anticipates will generate approximately \$80,000 per year. This revenue can be added to the \$40,000 already budgeted and will be used to address storm water issues where there is the most need for mitigation. It was noted that for years other Pitt County municipalities have been charging a similar monthly fee to its customers.

He feels that transferring \$56,000 out of Powell Bill Funds will not jeopardize the Town’s street or ditch maintenance schedule. Although the I&I study is costly, it is believed that it will pay for itself because when the problems have been identified and resolved, it should reduce the Town’s future financial obligation to CMSD. Manager Holland also noted that additional savings will be realized due to prior year District Park expenses no longer needed.

There were concerns expressed about pulling too much from the General Fund to pay for all of the expenditures in the budget and also taking on additional loans, such as the one required for the second fire department equipment truck.

The Board agreed that a final budget workshop meeting will be scheduled sometime after May 19th but before the June 8th Governing Board meeting in which a public hearing will be held for the FYE 2016 budget.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tripp called on a motion and corresponding vote to adjourn:

Motion: Commissioner Harris

Second: Commissioner Mewborn

Discussion: None

Approved: 5-0

The motion to adjourn at 8:30 was approved.

CERTIFICATION

Minutes from the April 27th Special Called Meeting were adopted and certified this 19th day of May 2015 in Ayden, North Carolina.



AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA



Stephen W. Tripp, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherri L. Scharf, Town Clerk