

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Special Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023 | 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mayor Tom Hartman, Alderman Rusty Barr, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderwoman Crystal Miller, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Police Chief Bradley Jordan, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick

At 5:30 p.m. Mayor Hartman called to order the special meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

Special Session - Discussion of FY 2023-24 Budget.

Discussion of Projects to Benefit Town Residents

- Upgrade Park
- Install Sidewalks

Discussion of Property Revaluation – The Town’s total value of property (real and personal) increased by 24.2%. The consensus of the board is to leave the tax rate at the revenue neutral rate of \$0.3381.

Discussion of Revenues

- NC DOT Feasibility Study for Sidewalks
- Increase Commercial Garbage Rates

Discussion of Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Employees

- Annual Inflation Rate for January 2023 – 6.4%
- Social Security Increase 2023 – 8.7%
- 5% COLA for Town Employees – to discuss at a later date

Administration - Town Manager Brantley Price reviewed the administrative requests for the budget. Noteworthy items discussed are as follows:

- Feasibility Study sidewalks S Jefferson Ave – Buck Mtn to BC School Rd
- New Phone System
- Town Hall outside renovation
- GE incentive Payment
- Review replacing covers on town clock after hotel renovation
- Christmas Decorations
- Additional Banners
- Paddy Mtn temporary parking lot & miscellaneous items

Police - Police Chief Brad Jordan went over the proposed Police Department budget items which included the following:

- Review adding three police officers
- Increase Part-time salaries
- Uniforms

- Departmental supplies
 - Tasers (3)
 - Ballistic vests (3)
 - Miscellaneous equipment
- Maintenance Repair to Older Vehicles
- Police Vehicle

Maintenance - Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller discussed his proposed budget for the Maintenance Department, Streets and Park/Cemetery. Items discussed include:

- Storm Drain Boxes & Tile at West Third St/Church Ave
- Small tools
- Bucket Truck Replace Hydraulic Lines
- Repair Piping in Public Restrooms
- Street Sign Replacement
- Sidewalk Plow for Mower or Boss Snowplow
- Raise Outlets in Bump Outs
- Flowers Baskets on Poles- and Planters
- Add Lighting at Downtown Crosswalks
- Skid Steer - CAT BP118C Pick Up Broom
 - FRD FX55 Hammer (used)
- Ford F450 Dump Truck
- Sidewalk replacement – Regency Property/Reeves Law Firm – downtown section
- Paving – GF and Powell Bill

Park

- Phase II or Phase II & III of Playground Equipment
- 6 new Trash cans and 3 Benches
- Cub Cadet Mower
- Mulch playground
- Repair tennis courts

Fire Department –

- Add Two Full Time Fire Fighters
- Supplies with Grant (50-50 match)
- Increase Department Utilities

Water/Sewer -

- State Budget Wastewater Upgrade
- AIA Grant/ ARPA Funds
 - Interconnect with Jefferson
 - Water
 - Sewer

Water - WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick discussed items for the water and sewer budget which included:

- Monies to check each meter connection – change out all galvanized - Oct 2024
- Sampling - \$18,000
- Misc. Parts for Filter Plant
- Training and Education
- Penalties and Fines
- Pressure Transducer
- Detention Tank Sensors
- Chemical Feed Pumps
- New Well Meters
- Extra SCADA Parts
- Ross Valves Maintenance
- Small Hand Tools
- SCADA upgrades
- Building and Grounds Extra
- Boots/Rubber Boots
- Well and Detention Pumps
- Filter Plant Pump

Sewer

- Sewer Jetter - \$70,000
- Repair Sewer Laterals - Buck Mtn
- Repair I&I Issues
- Upgrade Greenfield Pump Station
- Upgrade Beaver Creek Pump Station
- W/S CIP
- Wastewater Upgrade
- AIA Grant
- Penalties & Fines
- Training & Education
- 4" Trash Pump
- Backwash Pump for Filters
- Suction Hoses
- Small Hand Tools
- Lime for Sludge Fields
- New Blowers
- Beaver Creek Pump Station Pump
- Polymer/Landfill Tipping Fees
- UV Bulb and Ballast Replacement
- Belt Press Maintenance
- Boot/Rubber Boots
- Extra Sampling

- Tires for F250
- Generator
- Sludge Pump for Press
- Belt Press Service Call
- Enclose Sludge Canopy

Adjournment- With nothing further, Alderman Reeves made the motion to adjourn the special meeting. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk