

Minutes of the Work Session of
The Liberty Town Council
Held on May 16, 2022 5:30 PM

Present

- Mayor: The Honorable Filmore York
- Council: Terry Caviness, Larry Coble, Don Herndon, JR Beard and Tyson Nixon
- Town Manager: Scott Kidd
- Town Clerk: Jessica Brown
- Staff: Police Chief; David Semrad, Police Officer William Hargrove, Library Director; Brenda Heindl Hornsby, Finance Director; Kathy Bond, Parks and Recreation Director; Logan Maness, Safety Director; Bret Pedigo, and Public Works Director; Joseph Walsh
- Town Attorney; Bill Flowe

To Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and welcomed everyone. He is glad to have everyone here. Council Member Tyson Nixon had not arrived yet.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor York said there was an addition of 7.12 under Consent Agenda of Budget Amendment #34. Council Member JR Beard made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition. Council Member Don Herndon seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Members Larry Coble, Don Herndon, JR Beard, and Terry Caviness voted yes and adopted the agenda.

Budget Presentation - Town Manager Scott Kidd

Town Manager Scott Kidd went to the podium to give the Budget Presentation. He said a copy of the proposed budget will be available for public inspection at Town Hall starting tomorrow. We have had multiple grants: CDBG, AIA's, ASADRA, and Golden Leaf which we use to continue updating our infrastructure.

There is a lot of activity at the Megasite preparing for Toyota and we are planning for the future. The Town Manager put a map of the Carolina Corridor on the screen. Liberty was missing from the map which they had previously pointed out. There is also a Chatham megasite twelve miles south of Liberty which he put an overhead view on screen. There are no definite details of what will be going there at this time.

Property taxes have gone up a little over a million dollars. It is 5.64 per \$100.00. There has been a change in the tax rate for solar farms.

Sales tax is forty to forty five percent of Town Revenue and even with Covid we made more than in previous years.

The Enterprise account is just under a million dollars each year. Water/Sewer service charges make up ninety to ninety five percent of that revenue. A rate study is part of the AIA (Asset Inventory Assessment) grant. We need to be self supporting and it is a possibility rates will need to be increased next year. This is not just a Liberty problem. Our biggest expenditure is salaries which makeup half. This does not include retirement, insurance, and FICA. Other large expenses are contracted services (trash) and Code Enforcement.

Budget Appropriations are: \$6,600 to the Randolph Economic Development Corporation, \$5,000 to the Liberty Chamber and \$20,000 to Experience Liberty.

Some future challenges for the Town are water/sewer, ancillary businesses due to Toyota, future growth, maintaining staff and continuing to provide services.

We are looking at adding six new positions: recreation-one, police-one, water/sewer - one, and firefighters - three. Water/sewer would like to add an equipment operator for repairs. We can repair five manholes for the cost of one if doing it ourselves. It would save money to do more in house repairs.

Changes to the fee schedule are trash cans have increased from \$15.00 to \$16.00. and Planning and Zoning fees have increased due to 160D which may add to costs for advertising.

In conclusion, we want to keep Liberty a great place to live, take care of our employees and seek funding to reduce the burden on our taxpayers. We can tweak this budget so please let him know if there are any questions moving forward.

Information

Monthly Reports

Bret Pedigo had nothing to add to the Fire Department report. They had a controlled burn on Dameron two weeks ago for training.

Library Director Brenda Heindl said the electricity is complete and she is waiting on plumbing and inspections in early June. Gisela Pacheco and herself went to class to learn about promoting summer reading. They received a grant that will help to provide food to needy families this summer.

Police Chief Semrad said the stabilizing of the foundation at the future PD was completed today. Council Member Don Herndon asked how many police officers would it take to be fully staffed? Chief Semrad said ten to twelve officers. There are currently ten positions but only nine are filled. Council Member JR Beard asked how many officers to cover a shift? Chief Semrad said he would like to have two per shift.

Council Member Tyson Nixon arrived at 5:55 PM.

Administrative Reports

Manager's Report

Town Manager Scott Kidd reminded Council of the Ethics class here May 26, 2022 at 10 AM. He will start interviewing applicants for the UNC Fellow intern position Friday. He has completed his Municipal/County Administrator classes (forty four sessions).

Finance Report

Finance Director Kathy Bond gave the Finance Report. Payroll for April 2022 is 212,800. Sales and Use Tax is up nineteen percent from last year. The Town has just received additional monies from Debt Setoff.

New Business

Resolution 2022-06 Road Closure Celebrate Liberty/Fireworks

This resolution is for the temporary road closures for the Celebrate Liberty Festival and Fireworks Saturday July 9, 2022.

Beer Garden Rules (Celebrate Liberty Festival)

These are rules for the Beer Garden at the Celebrate Liberty Festival Saturday July 9, 2022.

Budget Amendment #25

This amendment is to move funds from the General Fund Appropriated to the following Library line items to complete funding for construction of porch and front door. (Liberty Glass Door & Martinez Concrete).

Budget Amendment #26

This amendment is to move funds from the General Fund Appropriated to the following Police line items to complete funding for the Pre-Exposure Rabies Vaccine Series for employees.

Budget Amendment #27

This amendment is to move funds from Capital Reserve General (71 Fund) to Library Department Capital Outlay. This amendment is for building construction.

Budget Amendment #28

This amendment is to move funds from the General Fund Appropriated to the following Library line items to complete funding for construction. (Funding transferred from the Lowe account.)

Budget Amendment #29

This is to adopt project budget ordinance pursuant to NC General Statute 1059-13.2, for the purpose of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Grant for created Fund 88 with line items for the Police ICAC Project Fund (Reimbursement Grant).

Budget Amendment #30

This amendment is to move funds from the General Fund Appropriated to the following departments for end of year cleanup of budgets.

Budget Amendment # 31

This amendment is to move funds from the General Fund Appropriated to the following departments for end of year cleanup of budgets.

Budget Amendment #32

This amendment is to move funds from the General Fund Appropriated to the following departments for end of year cleanup of budgets.

Budget Amendment #33

This Project Budget Ordinance is pursuant to NC General Statute 159-13.2, for the purpose of 2022 - Summer Security-Feeding Grant for a created Fund 89.

Budget Amendment #34

This amendment is to move funds from Enterprise Balance Appropriated to Sewer line items for spending.

Citizen Comments

Eva Cheek of 918 S Kirkman Street came forward to speak. She said thank you for the lights at Paul Henry park. She would like to see the gates locked and cameras or mock cameras put up there. She would also like to see a flag pole. Traffic at Kirkman Street is very fast and she would like to see some Children at Play signs put up there. She thanked Police Chief Semrad for having a patrol officer at St. Stephens Church. They pick up a lot of beer cans there. She asked if Paul Henry Park was included in the budget and Town Manager Scott Kidd said they have increased the budget for upkeep.

Council Comments

Council Member Don Herndon said we need to make sure our housing codes are up to speed with the influx of new residents coming. Town Manager Scott Kidd said he will review what other towns are doing and get with Code Enforcement.

Mayor Comments

Mayor York said we may need to look at getting a full time Planning and Zoning Consultant. Mr. Neely is planning to retire soon. Please get out and vote tomorrow.

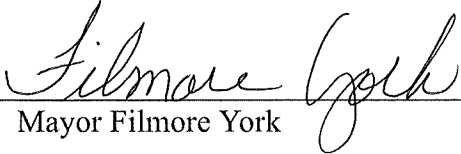
Closed Session NCGS 143.318.11(6)

Council Member Tyson Nixon made a motion to go into Closed Session per GS 143.318.11 (6). Council Member Don Herndon seconded the motion which passed unanimously with Council Members: Larry Coble, Terry Caviness, Don Herndon, JR Beard, and Tyson Nixon voting yes. The Liberty Town Council went into Closed Session at 6:50 PM.

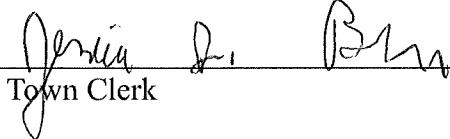
Council Member Tyson Nixon made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Council Member Larry Coble seconded the motion which passed unanimously with Council Members: Larry Coble, Terry Caviness, Don Herndon, JR Beard and Tyson Nixon voting yes. The Liberty Town Council came out of Closed Session at 7:30 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Council Member Tyson Nixon motioned to adjourn the meeting and Council Member Terry Caviness seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Member Larry Coble voted yes, Council Member Don Herndon voted yes, Council Member JR Beard, Council Member Tyson Nixon and Council Member Terry Caviness.voted yes. The meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Filmore York

ATTEST: 
Town Clerk