

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 10, 2023 – 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

Upon call of the roll, the following Council Members were Present (6):

Mayor Jay W. Wagner; Council Member Britt W. Moore, At Large; Council Member Cyril Jefferson, Ward 1[arrived at 4:34 p.m.]; Council Member Christopher Williams, Ward 2; Council Member Monica L. Peters, Ward 3; and Council Member Victor Jones, Ward 5

Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Wesley Hudson, Ward 4; Council Member Tyrone Johnson, At Large; and Council Member Michael Holmes, Ward 6

Staff Present:

Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Deputy City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Damon, Dequenne, Assistant City Manager; Meghan Maguire, City Attorney; Sandra Keeney, City Clerk; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2023-214 Budget Review- Proposed City of High Point FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget

Staff will provide an overview of the proposed FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget for the City of High Point.

Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager welcomed and recognized Cynthia Barnes in attendance as the City's M/WBE Coordinator; and introduced Stephen Hawryluk, Budget and Performance Manager to provide an overview of the proposed FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget for the City of High Point.

Mr. Hawryluk extended greetings; said that he will be discussing the Marketing/Branding Funding, Opioid Funds Update, Fee Schedule, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and the next steps for the proposed FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget for the City of High Point as followed:

- *Marketing and Branding funding: proposed budget of \$250,000; outlined the implementation plan (collaboration and brand management, internal*

- communication, built environment), and spoke to other/future funding such as existing departmental budgets, and regular replacement/maintenance schedule.*
- *Opioid fund update: settlement fund created in June 2022; required to update annually; received to date - \$172,000; settlement was \$2,394,023 allocated that will be received in increments between 2022 and 2038; opioid settlement fund \$2,394,023; outlined what the funds could be used for; specific uses to be determined; and spoke to the prerequisites on how funds will be spent.*
 - *Proposed Fee Schedule: proposed 4% increase (water/sewer) due to higher operating costs; no increase in electric rates; Parks and Recreation will be no change in competition swimming lane rental, reduce from 8 lanes to 6 lanes; for Customer Service increase in service fee, extra trip fees, meter tampering/investigation charge, and for electric service; discussed the parking fee changes increase; Public Services increase for cemeteries services; Public Services increase in red box rental, roll out container, and solid waste fees; outlined the monthly impact these changes would have on customers.*

Mayor Wagner inquired on the expiration of the revenue bonds from the early 2000s; and inquired on the competition swimming lane rental from different entities. Mr. Fitzjohn responded that the initial bonds were phasing out and being replaced by other bonds; and that revenue bonds dated back in the early 2000s were not a part of the current model which extends between ten to fifteen years out. Mr. Hawryluk responded that staff would look into and confirm the competition swimming lane rental process.

Discussion took place regarding red box rental fees.

Mr. Hawryluk continued discussion on the following regarding the proposed city's budget.

- *Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): provided a list of projects from the funding sources as followed: General Capital, Water/Sewer, Electric, Transit, Solid Waste, and Stormwater; and outlined each funding source's projects.*

Mayor Wagner inquired on the distance of lines to be used for the 'Replace Obsolete Water/Sewer Lines' Projects. Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager responded that staff would follow up with that information.

Council Member Peters asked for a list of the Obsolete Water and Sewer Lines projects. Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager responded that staff would provide that information.

Council Member Moore asked if the demolition for Ward Street scheduled yet. Mr. Hawryluk responded that staff would provide that information after confirmation.

Council Member Jefferson arrived at the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Mr. Hawryluk continued discussion on the following regarding the proposed city's budget.

- *Next Steps:*
 - ✓ *Monday, May 15, 2023, 5:30 p.m.-Public Hearing at council meeting.*
 - ✓ *Thursday, May 18, 2023, 4-5:30 p.m.-Budget Work Session. Market authority and visit highpoint present their annual budgets.*
 - ✓ *Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 4-5:30 p.m.-Budget Work Session (if necessary).*

Council Discussion/Questions

Council Member Williams asked staff to reevaluate council's base pay; and to evaluate council's pay every term (four years) moving forward. Ms. Logan Ford responded and spoke to the salary comparisons from other cities; noted that the last salary adjustment was in 2008; and that staff would conduct a comparison analysis.

Council Member Williams inquired on the next steps regarding the Mentorship Coordinator Position; and stated that agencies were requesting this expertise. Ms. Logan Ford said that staff had a proposal that would be shared before the Finance Committee to allocate funding; asked Council Member Williams to confirm which source of funds to use for said position. Council Member Williams responded to use the ARPA funds.

It was the consensus of council to bring the Mentorship Coordinator Position before the Finance Department to allocate funding.

Council Member Jefferson inquired on the funding for the Transit HUB project in the amount of \$250,000; and asked was the location confirmed for the HUBs. Mr. Hawryluk explained and provided a breakdown regarding the cost for the HUB project; and Ms. Logan Ford responded that a location was not confirmed for the HUB.

Council Member Peters requested to have Jacobs Place included with the West Green in the water and sewer project. Ms. Logan Ford responded that staff would evaluate coordinating the two projects.

Council Member Williams asked how many miles were paved in the budget. Ms. Logan Ford responded that staff would provide that information.

Council Member Jefferson asked if the proposed budget include and solutions regarding recruiting CDL drivers. Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager replied, "yes"; said that staff conducted an interim evaluation regarding salary; city is actively working with GTCC to train future drivers, mechanic; and that with assistance from the Financial

Services Department, the city was able to change insurance companies due to the previous restrictions that required two years' experience.

Mayor Wagner advised that the public hearing, to receive feedback, for the proposed budget would be on Monday, May 15th; and that a budget work session would be held on May 18th to receive annual budget reports from Visit High Point, and the Market Authority.

Council Members Williams and Jefferson requested that Forward High Point provide a budget update to council. Ms. Logan Ford noted that Forward High Point's budget was not a part of the city's budget process; and that Forward High Point would present their budget at the May 18th budget work session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Moore and second by Council Member Williams.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, CMC
Deputy City Clerk