

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
May 29, 2019 – 3:00 P.M.  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Mayor Jay Wagner, Council Member Don Scarborough (At Large); Council Member Britt Moore (At Large) and Council Member Wesley Hudson (Ward 4); Council Member Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1) [arrived at 3:20 p.m.] Altizer, Budget and Performance Manager; Jeron Hollis, Communications and Public Engagement Director; Roslyn McNeill, Budget Analyst; Loren Hill, Economic Development Director; Michael McNair, Community Development Director; Angela Kirkwood, Human Resource Director; Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

**Others Present:**

Melody Burnett, Director of Operations and Finance for Convention and Visitors Bureau

**News Media Present:**

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2019-2020     BUDGET REVIEW**

Greg Demko, City Manager introduced Laura Altizer, Budget and Performance Manager to present a recap of the proposed 2019-2020 Budget.

Ms. Altizer gave an overview on personnel changes with seven new job positions that included: Crime Lab and Forensics Manage-Police, Waste Water Operator-Westside WWTP, 2 Plant Mechanics-Water/Sewer Facilities, Stormwater Specialist, GIS Analyst-Electric Engineering, and Heavy Truck Mechanic-Fleet Services; on personnel highlights that included: continuing the Pay for Performance merit increase with a 0%-4% range, continued 1% 401K/47 match, a 5% health and dental insurance premium increase, and a State-mandated retirement contribution increase of 7.75% to 8.95% over the next three years. Ms. Altizer continued discussion regarding Budget Reductions; spoke to the reduction process regarding the General Fund with a 4% cut within City Departments; and to personnel position changes that included a position cut in Inspections, a vacancy in Public Services, and a position reclassification in Information Technology (IT).

Council Member Moore inquired on the location of Inspections in the budget. Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager replied that it was in the Building Inspections; and spoke to making progress in the timeframe of inspection completions.

City Manager Demko spoke to the positive progress; stated that the position that was cut in

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inspections would be revisited if work load should increase; and spoke to the increased participation in the 401K/457 programs.

Ms. Altizer continued discussion regarding the increased Fee and Rate changes with the campground site from \$35 to \$40; Code Enforcement impoundment for vehicle release increased fee for \$150; Planning and Development department after-hours inspection increased fee from \$60/hr to \$100/hr; spoke to the Water and Sewer rate increase of 4%, and the Electric Fund decrease of 1.8% that would be effective October 1, 2019. Ms. Altizer continued with an overview of the increased fee and rate changes for parking decks.

Mr. Hemann explained the after-hour inspection process.

Ms. Altizer continued discussion regarding the Pay as you Go Capital for Water and Sewer, Electric, and Solid Waste; the upcoming High Point Convention and Visitors Bureau Budget with a 3% occupancy tax increase; and to the Market Authority budget with less than a 1% increase from FY2019.

City Manager Demko gave an overview of the replacement cycle of the water/sewer lines located downtown; and to the process of updating the lines.

Council Member Moore inquired on the progress of the replacement cycle for the lines. City Manager Demko replied went from 150-year replacement cycle to a 75-year cycle over a five-year period.

Council Member Moore inquired on the revenue for the Market Authority. Laura stated the Market Authority had state revenue also, spoke to the increased fee for the showroom license; informed that the executive committee would be meeting on June 5, 2019; and that she would provide council with any changes made.

Eric Olmedo, Managing Director explained the monthly review process on the term for showroom licenses; and to the end of the year budget amendment that would reflect fees received.

Ms. Altizer spoke to the next steps; to the scheduled Work Sessions; and to holding a Public Hearing at the June 3, 2019 Council Meeting.

City Manager Demko voiced appreciation with the detailed Proposed Budget 2019/2020 information published in the newspaper by Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*.

Council Member Jones inquired on the 70 % increase in the City Attorney's office. Mr. Olmedo replied it was for the new Assistant City Attorney's position; and spoke to included outside legal expenses.

Council Member Golden asked was the Home Buyer's Assistance fund decreased and inquired on the reimbursement for demolitions. Mr. Olmedo stated the Home Buyer's Assistance, which increased from \$120 thousand to \$200 thousand, and Housing Rehabilitation program were in the general fund budget; and spoke to the reimbursement received for demolition when liens were paid.

Mayor Wagner inquired on the location of the non-profit allocations. Mr. Olmedo stated they were itemized on page 83; and spoke to them going through the Finance Committee for approval.

Roslyn McNeill, Budget Analyst stated that the organizations would be notified about the public hearing.

Council Member Jones inquired on funding for the Arts Council to pay off their debt.

Discussion took place regarding the application process for the Southwest Foundation; the requirements in receiving grant funding; assisting in making the Arts Council more self-sustainable to receive funding; and on how funds were allocated.

Council Member Hudson discussed the application process, and requirements needed to receive funds for non-profit organizations.

Council Member Golden inquired on Greenhill Cemetery funding.

Mr. Olmedo stated there was an error on page 144; and that staff would provide council with a corrected version.

**Upon motion duly made by Council Member Jones, second by Council Member Hudson to cancel budget review meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 30, 2019, and have staff provide corrected language for pages 144 and 83 in the Proposed 2019-2020 Budget for adoption at the June 3, 2019 meeting.**

**Aye (8)**

Mayor Wagner, Council Member Moore, Council Member Scarborough, Council Member Golden, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, and Council Member Jones

**Absent (1)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Ewing

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Hudson and second by Council Member Moore.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

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Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk