

TOWN OF ANDREWS MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

GEORGETOWN COUNTY AIRPORT TERMINAL

MEETING ROOM

129 AIRPORT ROAD

GEORGETOWN, SC 29442

MAY 31, 2014 @ 9:00 AM

COUNCIL MEETING/ BUDGET WORKSHOP @ 9:00 AM

AGENDA

- 1) INVOCATION
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3) ROLL CALL
- 4) DISCUSSION OF FY 2014-2015 BUDGET
- 5) EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - A. PERSONNEL MATTER (POLICE DEPARTMENT)
- 6) ADJOURNMENT

Town of Andrews

Town Council Meeting/Budget Workshop

Saturday, May 31, 2014

9am

Georgetown County Airport Terminal

129 Airport Road Georgetown, SC

The Town of Andrews met for a Town Council Meeting/Budget Workshop on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at 9:00 am. Mayor Rodney Giles presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Invocation was rendered by Police Chief Kaynera Capers
Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present.

Town Officials Present:

Mayor Rodney Giles
Council Member Patsy Greene
Council Member Eddie Lee
Council Member David Tisdale
Council Member Sudha Patel

FY 2015 Budget Discussion

Following Roll Call, The FY 2015 Budget for Mayor and Council was discussed. Mayor and Council total expense for each member is to be \$3600.00 to be divided between line items (6350) Training (6352) Meals and employee travel expenses. Town Administrator Mauretta Dorsey stated that she submitted the proposed changes for the FY 2015 Budget to accountant Wanda Charping prior to this meeting. Ms. Charping stated that she only recieved the proposed changes 48 hours prior to this meeting which didn't give her ample time to prepare the figures prior to this meeting being held. Ms. Dorsey explained the she instructed Ms. Charping to plug in the listed changes she gave to the FY 2014 and that Council agreed to increase all other items that were not affected by a specific change by 3% across the board for the GY 2015 Budget.

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Ms. Charping informed Council that the Town's current budget is running a half of a million dollars in deficit and \$400,000.00 deficit in water and sewer. She stated that by law they will need to present a balance budget for FY 2015. She stated that it is not feasible to add 3% to a failed budget. Ms. Charping recommended to Council that they address the infiltration problem with water and sewer because this is a major problem that is not getting any better and will continue to rob the Town. Mayor Giles stated that over \$300,000.00 of the budget deficit is caused by rain water going to Georgetown to be treated and that every time it rains the Towns bill from Georgetown triples.

Council Member Sudha Patel questioned is there any action plan in place to address the infiltration problem? Ms. Dorsey stated that from her notes from May 19, 2014 Budget Meeting that council has agreed to repair 20 manholes a year, 5 per quarter to help decrease the infiltration problem. Mayor Giles stated that when the budget and audits are all completed and up to date they plan to put a package together and request a grant from USDA to assist with funds to address the infiltration problem in water and sewer. Ms. Charping proposed that the Town hire an engineer to help devise a plan of action to help fix the infiltration problem. She informed Council that Mr. William Rose is not an engineer. She stated that there are three levels of water operation licensing; Class A, B and C. Class A is the lowest level of licensing and that is what Mr. Rose holds and he has only had that license for a year and six months.

Council Member Lee mentioned to Ms. Charping that he does not understand her presentation on today. He stated that he has notes from February 2014 where Ms. Charping stated that the Town was financially sound and now today May 31, 2014 it is in financial trouble. Ms. Charping said that she stated back in November 2013 that she informed Council that their intentions and the actual spending of the Town does not match. She explained that the Town had plenty of money in cash but since then the unbudgeted spending has increased dramatically, thus creating a major problem for the town. Council Member Lee insisted that he has never gotten a sense of urgency from any of Ms. Charping previous presentations. Ms. Charping stated that she was informed by Council Member Tisdale never to address them with such urgency to only give them a nudge and she has been giving nudges since November 2013. Ms. Charping insisted that she has

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on more than one account told council that they needed to discuss the \$178,000.00 contingency the Town has. However, transferring the \$178,000.00 to general fund to help with the \$400,000.00 deficit in water and sewer will only deplete the general fund account. She recommended that she be informed as well as be invited to the Town's Budget Workshops and these issues can be addressed on a regular basis. Ms. Charping said that she had instructed Council months ago to develop a capital expenditure plan and to assign a committee with a given time frame to establish that plan and had this been done it would have eliminated most of the problems that are a result of unbudgeted expenditures. She stated that the Town had set aside \$100,000.00 to purchase vehicles and however, she received invoices for over \$200,000.00 that she was unaware of any prior planning of any allocations to cover the additional money being spent.

Council Member Tisdale made the remark that the only plan that the Town has in place currently to address the rain infiltration problem is repairing the manholes. He asked Randy Cooper how effective has this plan been thus far? Mr. Cooper replied that they have only 10 manholes that have been repaired over a two year period and he doesn't think that is sufficient at all. Mayor Giles stated that the Town had some issues with SC DHEC and some mandates where placed on the Town to complete and thus the manholes project was put on hold and the funds that were set aside to repair manholes was cut in half to help fund the mandates issued by SC DHEC. He stated that the manhole project must be addressed. He said that the Town needs to hire a Public Works Director who knows all about our system and that individual must be an engineer and able to help develop and carry out a five to ten year plan to make our water and sewer system more efficient and effective.

Council Member Tisdale stated that before they move any further into the meeting that he doesn't remember being asked if they would like to be photographed. Mayor Giles stated that this is the mayor's meeting and that he feels that it is disrespectful to him and to other Council Members to be placed in the media's spotlight by being video recorded without first presenting it to them. He also stated that all of the meetings are audio recorded and the minutes are available at Town Hall for anyone to view. He stated that this is a Strong Mayor

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form of government and he sets the agenda and if its not on the agenda then it can't be brought into a meeting.

Ms. Charping stated that she received a memo to increase all line items by 3% from the current budget across the board in the FY 2015 Budget. Council Member Greene stated that she didn't know anything about that decision being made. Ms. Dorsey reminded council that they made that decision in their meeting on March 19, 2014 to add the 3% that would include a cost of living increase for all employees and that would be separate from any merit increase that may come. Ms. Charping stated that the Town's budgeting process is faulty and she has not been included or invited to any budget meetings and this is part of the faulty budgeting process. Ms. Charping stated that this has not been a problem over the past eight years and now it is a serious problem. Council Member Patel stated that she thinks that this has always been a problem for the Town and she has always seen in the paper that the Town was in the red zone. Mayor Giles and Council Member Greene both stated that the remark made by Council Member Patel was not true at all.

Mayor Giles appointed Council Members Lee and Greene to work with Council Member Tisdale on developing a Capital Spending Budget. Ms. Charping recommended that Council start from zero and reconstruct their FY 2015 Proposed Budget. She also stated that the \$260,000.00 from the land sale will be able to assist with the deficit that the Towns is now facing.

Council Member Greene stated that this meeting has been posted and that they did not stop anyone from attending but she feels like people are uncomfortable and she made the motion to shut the video camera down due to people attending the meeting feeling uncomfortable being videoed. Council Member Lee seconded he motion. Mayor Giles stated that the video camera was not on the agenda and Council Member Patel stated that it isn't required to be on the agenda per the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Lee stated that before they make a decision on the matter that they should check into the legality of doing so before they have something to come back and bite them. Council Member Patel stated that she had already done her homework before bringing in the camera and she is within her rights. She stated that it is perfectly legal to have the media, video recording

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and audio recording in a public meeting. She stated that she has her handbook if anyone wantd to review it. Council Member Tisdale stated that he doesn't agree with the video recorder in the meeting and that the meeting was posted and the media has all rights to be in attendance. He stated to Council Member Patel that she is not a part of the Georgetown Times or any media but she is an elected official and the handbook will not say it's alright for an elected official to bring such recordings into a meeting. Council Member Lee asked Council Member Patel is she video recording herself. Council Member Patel responded saying that she would be willing to move the camera to any corner of the room so that everyone could be videoed. The record shows that Council Member Tisdale, Council Member Greene and Mayor Giles voted Yes to the motion to shut the video camera down and Council Member Lee voted no and Council Member Patel sustained from voting, Mayor Giles stated that the motion is carried. Council Member Patel replied that they did not have four votes in order for the motion to be carried however; Council Member Greene stated that the majority rules and thus the motion stands. Council Member Patel stated that she will turn the video camera off only if the Town's Attorney instructs her to do so. Mayor Giles stated that the Council has already voted and the camera needs to be turned off.

Chief Capers quoted from the Municipal Handbook "that it reads electronic recordings or means are permissible into public meetings by the public." He pointed out to Council Member Patel that it did not say it's permissible for an elected official to bring such recordings into a public meeting. Chief Capers informed Council Member Patel that it has come to his attention that from a previous meeting that she had taken information that was discussed in Executive Session and post it on Facebook and that is a direct violation according to the Municipal Association Handbook. Council Member Patel denied ever committing that act and asked the chief to inform her of what specific information she has allegedly taken out of Executive Session. Chief Capers made the remark to Council Member Patel that she will only take this information from this meeting and post it on some type of social media and as a result some discourse will be created among the citizens of Andrews.

Chief Capers stated to Council Member Patel that she is catering to her so call constituents and she responded by saying that she doesn't work for herself but

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for the Public. Chief Capers stated that the motion has been made, voted on and the recorder has to be shut down or he will have to ask her to leave this meeting and have Lieutenant Taylor escort her out with a courtesy escort by Georgetown County Sheriff Department. Council Member Patel said to Chief Capers that they will talk.

FY 2015 Budget Discussion

Fire Department

Mr. Bobby Barrineau stated that the following items listed in the Proposed FY 2015 Budget needs to be changed:

6312 Fire Calls \$20,000.00

6315 Contract Professionals \$2,500.00

6342 Pagers \$510.00

6612 \$3,000.00 Computer Software

The following items need to be added to the Fire Department FY 2015 Budget:

\$15,000.00 Scuba Cylinders

\$3,000.00 OSHA required Physicals

Council and Mayor

Mayor Giles proposed the following changes to the FY 2014 Proposed Budget

6352 Travel and Meals \$12,600.00

6350 Training \$12,600.00

Water and Sewer

Randy Cooper proposed the following changes to the FY 2014 Proposed Budget:

6350 Training \$8,500.00

6352 Meals and Travel \$3,400.00

6392 True Up to the City of Georgetown (open)

6406 \$25,000.00

6417 Building Repairs \$20,000.00

Mrs. Dorsey stated that the insurance Company is not yet completed the repairs on the Public Works Building.

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Two trucks \$72,000.00
Public Works Director \$50,000.00
Bill for last year's interceptor repair expense (open)???
Parker and Poe legal action fee \$2,000.00
\$310,000.00 Volume charges to The City of Georgetown
\$220,000.00 Volume charges to the Georgetown County Water and Sewer

Mayor Giles stated that Ms. Dorsey is making contact with a few individuals about performing some consultant work for the Town. He also stated that Mr. Rose should only be with the Town for about another two months totaling \$5,000.00.

Street and Sanitation

Randy Cooper reviewed the FY 2014 Proposed Budget and he made no changes.
Two trucks \$72,000.00

The motion was made by Council Member Tisdale and seconded by Council Member Greene to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

The motion was made by Council Member Tisdale and seconded by Council Member Lee to come out of Executive Session.

Mayor Giles stated that there was no decision made during Executive Session with regards to Personnel Matters.

FY 2014 Proposed Budget Discussion Continued

Police Department

Chief Capers proposed the following changes and additions to the FY 2015 Police Department Proposed Budget:

6001 Wages and salaries add an additional \$156,626.00 to add 5 slots for police officers to help patrol the Town of Andrews. This will increase the police force to 15 employees to include 14 officers and the victims assistance advocate. He

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requested pay increases for Officer Nesmith and Officer Dunmore because they have been promoted to Shift Supervisors. The pay increase would give Officer Nesmith a salary of \$31,500.00 and Officer Dunmore a salary of \$30,500.00. Chief Capers also request a \$500.00 pay increase for all other working officers. He stated that the starting salary for all new hires with acceptable experience would be \$28,419.00. The starting salary for all new officers with no or little certification will be \$24,000.00.

Chief Capers stated that the victims advocate is now starting to receive some training and upon completing some additional training programs she may be able to receive a pay increase. Chief Capers stated that his job description mandates him as a leader and department head to carry out effectively the orders set forth him to run a department that will provide the upmost protection and safety to the citizens of Andrews. In order for this to happen he has to have employees who are motivated, proactive, dedicated to hard work and any qualities less than these are unacceptable.

Line item 6381 County Detention Expense \$65,000.00

Line item 6350 Training, Meals and Travel \$14,000.00 #1000.00 per employee

Adjournment

Council Member Eddie Lee made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm and was seconded by Council Member Patsy Greene.

Council Meeting minutes submitted by Chaconas Parson.