

**TOWN OF ANDREWS
SPECIAL CALLED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING/BUDGET
WORKSHOP
TOWN HALL / CONFERENCE ROOM
101 N. MORGAN AVE
ANDREWS, SC 29510
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014 @ 1:00 PM**

AGENDA

- 1) INVOCATION
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3) ROLL CALL
 - A. DISCUSSION OF FY 2014-2015 BUDGET
- 4) ADJOURNMENT

Town of Andrews

**Special Called/Budget Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2014**

1:00pm

Town Hall Courtroom

101 N Morgan Ave Andrews, SC

The Town of Andrews met for their Special Called Town Council Meeting on Wednesday June 18, 2014 at 1:00 pm. Mayor Rodney Giles presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Invocation was rendered by David Tisdale
Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present.

Town Officials Present:

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

Discussion of FY 2014-2015 Budget: Administrator Mauretta Dorsey stated that all departments have been working diligently to make proposed changes to the budget; however, we have not been given the necessary information to move forward at this time. Mrs. Dorsey continued that once we knew what our budget amount was we could have went ahead and published a public hearing. She continued that until completed a budget is a working document and any changes during this time is acceptable and any information can be changed as needed. Mrs. Dorsey stated that we are in a situation now in which we are at a standstill and did not have to be. She continued that with this current budget we have a

"budget shortfall" of about \$500,000.00 and this number does not represent the state of the Town's finances. She continued that in regards to the Water & Sewer volume charges what we need to do in a public meeting is state that we have a budget shortfall for these Water & Sewer volume charges and that we need to document it in the paper as such; additionally, she stated that the town is financially sound because it has not bothered our income, but it has blown the budget. Mrs. Dorsey continued that the money we received from State to Aid should have been done as a onetime amendment to recognize those funds because we have not received any in about 4 years so this needs to be recognized at the next scheduled council meeting as income as well and that it will take away from the shortfall of the budget. She continued that we would need to do a transfer of those funds to Water & Sewer. Council Member Patsy Greene stated that we would need to put the funds back and that Water & Sewer will pay General Fund back, and set up a payment plan to do so. Council Member Patsy Greene wanted to know how much was the total amount that we gave the customers as a courtesy from the issues experienced back in January-February, because it should be counted as loss revenue. The figure came to \$15000.00-16000.00 as calculated. Council Member Lee and Patel stated that Wanda the Town's Accountant stated that the Town had a deficit so it was hard to understand where she was coming from, but they are happy to hear that we are financially sound and we are not going broke. Mrs. Dorsey stated that we would have to do a continuing resolution on June 26, 2014 at the regular scheduled council meeting.

Police Department: Mrs. Dorsey stated that in regards to line item (7010 Vehicles) she did not recall mayor and council budgeting for vehicles for the new fiscal year. Mayor Giles stated that we are going to apply for the Cops Grant through USDA where you purchase one vehicle and you get three more. Council Member Sudha Patel asked can we put down money that we don't have. Administrator Dorsey stated that we can put down the cost of one vehicle, but the \$120,000 that is on line item (7010) was never discussed, and that it is throwing Chief Capers budget off. Council Member David Tisdale asked about line item (6404) in regards to the total amount. Mrs. Dorsey stated that the total will be significantly reduced because we no longer have those vehicles, we have only 1 that is left and it is used for the administration department. Mrs. Dorsey stated that after the proposed changes the line item (6404) will only be about \$5262.00.

All council who was present stated that overtime in that department is a big deal and they need to study it to see where the overtime is coming from and what can be done to bring those numbers down. Administrator Mauretta continued that Mayor and Council needs to get with Chief Capers in regards to the new positions that was previously discussed. Mayor Giles stated that he has discussed this with Chief Capers and at this time new positions are just not in the budget, he had originally budgeted for 4 new officers. Members of council stated that it can be worked in at a later time as deemed fit.

Mayor & Council: Mrs. Dorsey stated in regards to line items (6350&6352) what was the decision that was made between members of council. Council Member Sudha Patel stated that we have two main events of the year and that's the summer and winter meetings. Council Sudha Patel stated that we have to take into effect the length of the stays, where you decided to eat and what classes you will participate in as well as the hotel stay. Sudha continued that the biggest cost is the hotel stay ranging from \$200.00 a night, but not all council members will stay the entire time, thus reducing the amount of the stay. Council Members David Tisdale and Sudha Patel stated that when members of council goes to classes and trainings to come back and share what was learned and discussed so everyone can apply the information and put it to use. Council Member Sudha Patel stated that if we divide the amount budgeted for mayor and council the figures come to \$1800.00. Council Member Patsy Green stated that it is feasible to have the hotels located within the same vicinity as the conference so no one will be late or have problems getting to the classes on time. Council member Sudha Patel stated that \$1800.00 is the final dollar amount that will be set for mayor and council for the 2014-2015 budget year. If council members go over the allowed budget then it will be there responsibility to pay the town back for any overage. Council member Patel added that line item (6334) should include an amount to update our Town Website, and Mrs. Dorsey stated that the line item needs to be removed as it is not pertinent; it should go under administration. Council member Patel stated that line item (6335) is pretty expensive for a Town phone the mayor; in addition, Mrs. Dorsey stated that it is less than what is reported on the budget worksheet, she stated that it should only be about \$840.00 per year and not \$1700.00 that is reported on the budget worksheet. In regards to line item (6319) Mrs. Dorsey stated that it is budgeted for members of council who does not have health insurance, as well as line item (6023) is for

members who currently have the Town's health insurance because you are required to pay taxes and fees. Council member Tisdale asked will there be a discussion about absorbing all health insurance fees or ask employees to pay a certain percentage of fees once all allowed cost have been exhausted. Mrs. Dorsey stated that council should revisit the town's policy because the current policy states that you have a cap of \$495.00 and we are currently paying \$448.98 per employee and that includes the new increase. Line items (6610) should not be listed on the budget worksheet only because supplies and software should come under Administration Department. Mauretta also stated that we should have a system set up to keep track of expenditures and subtract that amount so the budget will reflect what is going out. In the future Mrs. Dorsey stated that we can publish our public hearing and put down what our proposed budget amount is. Mrs. Dorsey continued that the Accountant stated that the land sale was included in the budget, but it is not listed on the budget workshop. She stated that even though we won't get the money until 2015 that it should still be listed and included in the budget, and our budget amount should reflect the sale of the land even now. Council member Sudha Patel asked were we still looking for an outside source to do a thorough job, and Mrs. Dorsey stated that yes it is council's intent to do so. Council member David Tisdale asked exactly how much is our ownership of the interceptor. Mrs. Dorsey stated that it is 1/3, and council member Tisdale stated that he does not think it is that much, he says it's way less than what we all think. He continued that the interest that we are currently paying is based on 1/3 ownership meaning that we own less and pay more, whereas it should be based on what we own and not how much we owe.

Council Member David Tisdale made a motion that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by council Member Patsy Green.

Council Minutes submitted by: Keeya Cumbee