

VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WESLEY CHAPEL TOWN HALL
6490 Weddington Road, Wesley Chapel, NC 28104
May 20, 2015 – 9:30 A. M.

The Village Council of Wesley Chapel, North Carolina, met in the Town Hall at 6490 Weddington Road, Wesley Chapel, North Carolina.

Present: Mayor Horvath, Mayor Pro Tem Como, Council Members Kenary, Plyler, and Rosoff.

Others Present:

Clerk/Finance Officer Cheryl Bennett.

Citizens Present:

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM and a quorum was present.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Horvath led the Pledge of Allegiance and then gave the invocation.

The council reached a consensus and directed Clerk/Finance Officer Bennett to send official condolences in the form of either a floral arrangement or memorial donation in the recent passing of former Mayor Gordon Shure.

2. REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2015/16 BUDGET

Expenditure Discussion

The council reviewed Government Salaries and reviewed the state requirements for unemployment expense.

In lieu of raising elected officials salaries consensus was reached by council to control the length of council meetings and revisit salary increases at a later time.

Council Member Plyler made the recommendation for council's consideration of hiring a full time planner vs a part time planner for the Village. Due to the rate increase from N-Focus for mapping, the suggestion of exploring alternative options for mapping was made mention.

No changes were made to professional fees although Clerk/Finance Officer Bennett was directed to contact the engineer to conduct the annual inspection of both Village owned ponds.

Clerk's note- At 9:47 a.m. Council Member Kenary entered the meeting.

A recent letter from NC DOT regarding the proposed sidewalks along NC Hwy 84 was read; they have moved up right of way acquisition to September 2017, and construction to September

2019. Since the time frame has moved up, we need to budget the funds sooner in a Capital Outlay Sidewalks Reserve account. Mayor Pro Tem Como motioned to budget \$8,000 per year for three years, and approve the verbiage in a letter to and requested by NC DOT. Council Member Plyler seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Youth Council Committee budget was discussed; consensus was to leave it as is. Public Safety expenditures were discussed; there will be a National Night Out event in the Target parking lot this year. Rental of a generator may be needed.

Parks and Rec was discussed next. Council Member Rosoff noted the primary objective is completion of the amphitheater; also they feel a part time maintenance worker is needed for parks and rec and town hall property. She also felt a professional Parks and Rec director is needed and could oversee their budget.

The Clerk/Administrator salary was discussed, we are at the bottom end of the salary scale compared to neighboring towns. Consensus was to add \$3,000 to bring the amount to \$50,723 for the 32 hours of the Clerk/Administrator salary.

Discussion returned to Parks and Rec. While we want to budget what we need to avoid numerous budget transfers, we also have not had the park in operation a full year, so it is difficult to foresee everything. Parks and Rec budget requests were reviewed line by line. Pam King who compiled the numbers provided background information. The "pond maintenance-algae" line item was deleted, and expenses will be included in "other supplies". "Construction supplies" at \$476 is a new line item to replace four broken wheelbarrows, also new is "Riprap, gravel, sand" line item at \$5,522. Expected expenditures are 60 tons of riprap to shore up sides of walking trails, and 200 tons of pit gravel to repair existing trails. "Other supplies and materials" was decreased from \$4,000 to \$2,000, which is about what was spent this year after you subtract out rip rap and gravel. Contingency is also available should unexpected expenses arise.

Parks and Recreation Services – a new line item is "tree service" – this will allow for removal of dead and damaged trees that volunteers cannot safely remove; amount is \$2,500. "Equipment rentals" was proposed at \$2,500; but Mayor Pro Tem Como requested it be increased to \$3,000; Council concurred. \$6,000 was budgeted for "event services"; while Friends of Parks and Rec have done some events, we may begin taking over the events. The \$1,000 for "pest control" will allow for an annual termite control contract for wooden structures such as bridges and the pier. The "printing" budget at \$500 will be used for signs such as "no swimming", etc. Currently there is no charge for trash collection; proposed was \$600 in case we have to start paying. It was decided we can use contingency should that happen and the \$600 was deleted. The "sanitation contract" line item includes not only the regular porta-jons but also porta-jons and hand washing stations for three events. The "water/sewer" line item increased to \$516 due to the new water stand pipe. "Utilities – elec. and gas" was increased to \$11,220 to cover the expense to run the aerator and fountain lights.

Parks and Rec – Capital Outlay -

A “monument sign” was budgeted at \$6,500 in case the Eagle Scout is unable to complete the project or needs funding assistance. The budget request for the “call box” was \$1,100, but not based on a firm quote, so after discussion Council increased the amount to \$4,000. “Stump removal from dam” was budgeted at \$5,000; while the number is not firm, a rotting stump can compromise a dam’s safety; the hole will be filled and compacted. An irrigation system was budgeted at \$35,000; this was in the original park plans. The Parks and Rec Committee will consider and decide if this is a FY 2016 project request. Using water from the lake was discussed at length. A new line item was proposed for “Fencing/screening” at \$1,500; people have used a house behind the park to cut through. \$2,000 was requested for “plants for landscaping” for additional landscaping. Parks and Rec requested \$100,000 for completion of the amphitheater, but since this is a major capital item, the Finance Officer noted it would not be budgeted in the annual budget, it would be budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund, and perhaps through a PARTF grant.

The overall budget was discussed, we are at a net shortage of \$3,860 with the 1.77 cent tax rate and approximately short \$12,000 with a 1.65 cent tax rate. Council Members Kenary and Plyler did not want to see a tax increase; Council Member Rosoff disagreed, and Mayor Pro Tem Como noted we have a very low tax rate, and would only be adding a small amount to have nice things. Mayor Horvath noted the 1.77 cent tax rate is a revenue neutral rate overall to the town, if your personal valuation went up, you may pay more. Tax rate was discussed at length. A tax rate and balanced budget must be presented to Council by June 1st. The Finance Officer suggested balancing the budget by decreasing contingency which would allow keeping the tax rate the same.

Council Member Kenary motioned to keep the tax rate unchanged at 1.65 cents. Council Member Plyler seconded the motion.

The motion was voted on with two yeas (Kenary and Plyler), and two nays (Como and Rosoff). Mayor Horvath broke the tie by voting yea, so the motion passed 3-2.

3. CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET FOR JUNE 8, 2015 AT 7 PM HERE AT TOWN HALL

Council Member Plyler motioned to call for a public hearing on the budget for 7 pm on June 8, 2015 here at town hall. Council Member Kenary seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Como motioned to adjourn; Council Member Rosoff seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at approximately 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Bennett, Clerk

Mayor Brad Horvath