

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Briton S. Williams, Mayor

*J. Robert Brooks, Councilmember
Pat C. Carpenter, Councilmember
Jenafer F. McCauley, Councilmember
David W. McGhee, Councilmember
Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember
Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

STUDY SESSION

The Study Session of September 26, 2022 for the City Council of the City of North Augusta, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Briton S. Williams at 6:00 p.m. and also streamed online for public viewing at the City Facebook page: "City of North Augusta – Public Information" and City YouTube page: "City of North Augusta Public Information." The Study Session adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meetings was sent out by email to the current maintained "Agenda Mailout" list consisting of news media outlets and individuals or companies requesting notification. Notice of the meetings was also posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Members present were Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Brooks, Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, Presnell, and Toole.

Also in attendance were James S. Clifford, City Administrator; Rachele Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly F. Zier, City Attorney; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; John C. Thomas, Director of Public Safety; Richard L. Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; James E. Sutton, Director of Public Services; Thomas L. Paradise, Director of Planning and Development; Lynda Williamson, Interim Director of Finance; J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology, and Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

ITEM 1. CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Items for September 19, 2022 Council Meeting – Council Discussion

City Administrator Jim Clifford led Council's discussion of items for the September 19, 2022 regular meeting. **(See Attachment #1)**

City Attorney Kelly Zier explained that for Item 6 – the Election Ordinance follows the state statutes requirements.

Discussion ensued relative to the Elections Ordinance and dates within the ordinance. It was determined to verify dates with legal counsel prior to the regular council meeting.

ITEM 2. FINANCE: Proposed FY 2023 Consolidated Budget – Council Review and Discussion

City Administrator Jim Clifford presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget to City Council. **(See Attachment #2)**

Discussion ensued relating to the Budget Drivers slide. (See page 2 of Attachment 2)

In response to a question from Councilmember Toole, Manager of Human Resources J.D. McCauley explained that the PEBA insurance increase of 18% is the employer share of the premium (health, dental, and vision)

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Carpenter, Mr. Clifford stated that the fuel increase of .25 cents was determined by forecasting and clarified that there was a fuel increase in FY 2022 and that with cost savings throughout the year the increase proposed is an adequate amount. He noted if increased the funding would need to come from another line within the budget or an increase to the millage.

Discussion ensued regarding the Community Funds and Mayor Williams requested that staff look into how the funding for the Public Education Partners (PEP) will be utilized in the City of North Augusta schooling. (See page 4 of Attachment 2)

Council and staff discussed the equipment requested, but not funded slides. Mayor Williams requested that a retreat be scheduled in early 2023 for Council with the focus being on growth with input from staff on the increase of homes/population and what is justified, such as more Public Safety Officers, etc. over 5-10 years. (See page 5 of attachment 2)

Mr. Clifford requested guidance from Council regarding the North Augusta Public Facilities Corporation Fund. He pointed out that per the agreement the City is required to set aside \$200,000 annually, however, he is requesting to pre-pay three (3) years of the Public Facilities Corporation Fund with ARPA funds. He explained some of the improvements required are increased lighting and a female locker room. He confirmed that additional ARPA funding will be available if the \$600,000 is approved.

It was the consensus of the board to remove the funding from the NA Public Facilities Corporation Fund as requested by Mr. Clifford and to use ARPA funds.

Discussion ensued with Council, Mr. Clifford, and staff regarding decline in public safety fines, capital projects fund, and restricted funds.

Councilmember Brooks recommended to increase the property tax from 1.5 MIL to 2 MIL with the .5 MIL increase to be placed in the Capital Project Fund. Assistant City Administrator Rachelle Moody clarified that the Capital Project Fund would increase from 3.3 Million to 3.8 Million.

Discussion ensued regarding the increase of the property tax. Interim Director of Finance Lynda Williamson confirmed that the increase on the typical home value in North Augusta of approximately \$201,186 would be from \$12.00 to \$16.00.

It was the consensus of the board to direct staff to increase the Property Tax to 2 MIL in the Capital Project Fund in the FY 2023 budget.

Mr. Clifford thanked the Director's and Senior Manager's for all of their input in order to present the draft FY 2023 budget to Council. He added an additional thanks to the newest members in their role, Interim Director of Finance Lynda Williamson and City Clerk Jamie Paul for jumping into the process right from the start.

Mayor Williams stated his confidence in the presented draft FY 2023 budget, thanked Council for their questions as well as staff for their responses.

The Study Session adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

ITEM 3. LEGAL: Executive Session – Request of the Mayor

At 7:38 p.m. on the motion of Councilmember Brooks, second of Councilmember Carpenter, Council agreed to enter into an executive session in compliance with Section 30-4-70 (a)(2) for the purpose of:

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

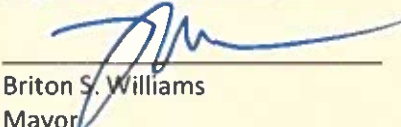
A. Discussion is specifically related to operations associated with the Riverside Village Development

Also, in attendance were Jim Clifford, City Administrator; Rachelle Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly Zier, City Attorney; Lynda Williamson, Interim Director of Finance; and Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

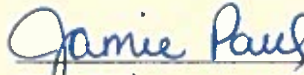
At 8:30 p.m. Council adjourned the executive session.

Council did not take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.

APPROVED THIS 3rd DAY OF
October, 2022.


Briton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,


Jamie Paul
City Clerk



PUBLIC POWER HOUR

October 3, 2022 – 5:30 p.m. - Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers

DRAFT AGENDA: CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 3, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. – Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers

The Public Power Hour and Regular City Council meeting will be streamed for public viewing online at:

- “City of North Augusta – Public Information” on www.Facebook.com
- “City of North Augusta Public Information” on www.YouTube.com

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council on each item listed on this agenda. The Mayor will call for comments prior to Council’s discussion. Speakers shall give their name and address in an audible tone of voice. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza at the entrance for speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.

CITIZEN ASSISTANCE: Individuals needing special assistance or sign interpreter to participate in the meeting, please notify the Administration Department 48 hours prior to the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Regular City Council Meeting minutes of September 19, 2022
- Study Session minutes of September 26, 2022

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:** Ordinance No. 2022-15 – To Amend the Zoning Map of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina by Rezoning ± .52 Acres of Land Owned by Hardy Land, LLC, Aiken County Tax Parcels #005-19-06-006 from PD, Planned Development to R-5, Mixed Residential; Ordinance – Second Reading

NEW BUSINESS

6. **ELECTIONS:** Ordinance No. 2022-16 Complying with Sections 10-1 and 10-2 of the Code of Laws of North Augusta, South Carolina, by Setting the Dates for Municipal Party Primaries, Conventions, and Partisan General Election, Times for Filing of Nominating Petitions, Certification of Candidates by Parties, and Certification of Candidates by Municipal Election Commission; Ordinance – First Reading

7. **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Resolution No. 2022-45 A Resolution Authorizing the City of North Augusta to Enter into a Contract for the Construction Manager at Risk Procurement Method for the Public Safety Headquarters Building and Authorized Staff to Develop a Guaranteed Maximum Price with the Company TBD
8. **PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT:** Resolution No. 2022-46 A Resolution Authorizing the City of North Augusta to Enter into a Contract for Materials Recycling Facility Equipment with Company TBD not to exceed TBD
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**
10. **PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**
 - A. **Citizen Comments** – *At this time, citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council regarding matters not listed on the agenda. Speakers shall give their name and address for the records. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza for speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.*
 - B. **Council Comments** –
11. **ADJOURNMENT**



North Augusta City Council

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Briefing

SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Purpose:

- To update the public and city council on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 balanced budget proposal

Budget Drivers

- 18% increase in PEBA insurance costs to all local governments in South Carolina
 - City of North Augusta cost increase = \$296K
- Unleaded and Diesel fuel estimates
- 4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to all City employees (Archer study recommended 9.8%)
- These elements cut across multiple budgets (General Fund, Sanitation, Stormwater Utility Fund, Utility O&M Fund)

Personnel Additions:

- DPW Erosion Control Inspector
- Planning & Development Code Enforcement Officer, 1 July start
- PRT Part Time Center Coordinator – Community Center
- PRT Part Time Center Coordinator – Activities Center

Requested, but not funded (Personnel):

- PRT Center Coordinator
- PRT Security Guard
- DPW Streets & Drains Supervisor

Personnel Changes:

- Public Safety Firefighter Grade 3 to Grade 4
- Public Safety Dispatchers updated to a Senior and Junior Dispatcher
- Utility Worker II grade increase from 6 to 9 (Utility O&M Fund)

- Healthcare cost share by employees (125K savings):
 - Removal of employer subsidy of employee premium for dental
 - Reduction of employer subsidy of employee-only from 100% to 75%

Project / Equipment Additions:

- \$25K Downtown Development Line in P&D
- \$100K Five Notch Traffic Study
- \$100K Alleyway resurfacing
- Detention Pond mower under lease/purchase
- Employee Education Reimbursement Fund (increase from \$5K to \$15K)

Community Funds:

	Requested	Allocated
Aiken Area Council on Aging	\$15,000	\$4,500
North Augusta Cultural Arts Council	\$9,100	\$4,000
Friends of Nancy Carson Library Foundation	\$20,000	\$5,000
North Augusta Forward	\$20,000	\$6,000
Olde Towne Preservation Association	\$60,130	\$6,000
Public Education Partners	\$5,000	\$3,000
The RECing Crew	\$4,355	\$2,100

Requested, but not funded (Equipment):

- P&D: US 78 Traffic Studies x 2 (FY2024 General Fund Budget)
- Public Safety:
 - Ladder Truck (FEMA Grant request/CPST 5)
 - HD Service Truck (CPST 5)
 - Brush Truck (CPST 5)
 - Light Duty Service Truck (CPST 5)
 - Fire Station 2 Renovations (CPST 5)
 - Indoor Range maintenance/replacement (ARPA/CPF/CPST 5)
 - Sidearm transition from .45 to 9mm (ARPA/FY2024 Budget)
 - 4 x Chevrolet Tahoe vehicles -> pushing for one more year on lower mileage vehicles
- Public Services/DPW:
 - Operations Facility repaving (CPF)
 - Floor scrubber equipment (future Gen Fund)

Requested, but not funded (Equipment):

- PRT: (future General Fund / ARPA)
 - Riverview Park Security Cameras
 - ABI Force Drag Replacement
 - Creighton Park Equipment and surface
 - Riverview Park Shade Structure
 - Soccer Lights (Riverfront Central Core funded)
 - Outdoor Pickelball Courts
 - Amphitheater Seating
 - Community Center Wall monitors & AV System
 - Activities Center replacement track surface
 - Activities Center replacement boilers & chillers
- HR
 - HRIS System (ARPA)

Updated PRT Fee Schedule:

	In City			Out of City			Senior		
	Activities Center Annual	Individual		\$80.00	Individual		\$135.00	Individual	
	Family		\$185.00	Family		\$370.00	Family		N/A
Activities Center Partial		Quart	Semi		Quart	Semi		Quart	Semi
Payments	Individual	\$35	\$55	Individual	\$55	\$85	Individual	\$20	\$35
	Family	\$85	\$135	Family	\$125	\$210	Family	N/A	N/A
Recreation Programs	W/Mem.		\$55.00	W/Mem.		\$75.00			
	W/O Mem.		\$60.00	W/O Mem.		\$80.00			

Updated PRT Fee Schedule:

	In City		Out of City		Senior	
	Community Center	Room		Rental Fee		
	Large Room		\$1700.00			Fri, Sat – 10 Hr.
	Large Room		\$1500.00			Mon – Thurs – 10 Hr.
	Medium Room		\$400.00			8 Hr. - \$50 per additional hour
	Medium Room		\$200.00			4 Hr. - \$50 per additional hour
	Small Room		\$125.00			4 Hr. - \$50 per additional hour
	Full Center		2500.00			10 Hr.
	Full Center Holiday Rate		\$3500.00			10 Hr.
Municipal Center	Room		Rental Fee			
	Palmetto Terrace		\$3500			Saturday – 10 Hr.
	Palmetto Terrace Holiday		\$4500			10 Hr.
	Palmetto Terrace		\$1500			Mon. – Fri. – 4 Hr. After 5pm

Updated Sanitation Fee Schedule (Increase):

	In City		Out of City		
Residential Roll Carts	Monthly	\$21.44	Monthly	\$30.18	
2 nd Can or yard waste can	Monthly	\$5.16	Monthly	\$7.27	
Electronics Disposal Fee	Per Item	25.00	Per Item	25.00	
Commercial Roll Carts	100 Gal.	\$21.44	100 Gal.	\$30.18	
Commercial Bulk Cont.	Base	+ /cu.yd.	Base	+ /cu.yd.	
	2 cu. yd.	\$51.64	\$2.86	\$51.64	\$4.04
	3 cu. yd.	\$54.05	\$2.86	\$54.05	\$4.04
	4 cu.yd.	\$56.44	\$2.86	\$56.44	\$4.04
	6 cu. yd.	\$61.73	\$2.86	\$61.73	\$4.04
	8 cu. yd.	\$67.54	\$2.86	\$67.54	\$4.04

Updated Wastewater Fee Schedule (No change):

	In City		Out of City	
	Base	+ Per 1,000 Gal.	Base	+ Per 1,000 Gal.
Monthly Charges	\$10.72	\$3.30	\$14.25	\$3.96
Add. Usage (Over 15,000,000 Gallons)		2.66		2.66

Updated Water Fee Schedule (No change):

Minimum Monthly Charges	In City		Out of City	
	Minimum	Min. Usage	Minimum	Min. Usage
5/8" x 3/4"	\$12.38	3,000	\$24.76	3,000
1"	\$17.34	6,000	\$34.68	6,000
1 1/2"	\$21.98	9,000	\$43.96	9,000
2"	\$31.37	15,000	\$62.74	15,000
3"	\$45.59	24,000	\$91.18	24,000
4"	\$55.07	30,000	\$110.14	30,000
6"	\$149.93	90,000	\$299.86	90,000
Usage Above Minimum	Charge/1,000 Over Minimum		Charge /1,000 Over Minimum	
Next 10,000		\$1.25		\$2.50
Next 27,000		\$1.20		\$2.40
Next 160,000		\$1.15		\$2.30
All Additional		\$1.05		\$2.10

Impacts on residents:

- Sanitation Rate Increase
- PRT Fee Increase
- 1.5 MIL Property Tax Increase

Not increasing:

Fire Protection Fee
Water Service Charges
Wastewater Service Charges

Effect of 1.5 Mill increase on NA residents:

Typical Home Value in North Augusta is approximately \$201,186 (Zillow Home Report, 9/8/2022)



Tax increase will be approximately \$12

- 2021 Full Size SUV = approximately \$3 increase



- 2022 Full Size Sedan = approximately \$3.25 increase



*Per Aiken County records, the average tax collected on vehicles in the City of North Augusta is \$30. The 1.5 millage rate would increase the average by \$.60

Council Guidance Requested:

- North Augusta Public Facilities Corporation Fund



North Augusta City Council

Discussion

SEPTEMBER 26, 2022