

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

Briton S. Williams, Mayor

Jenafer F. McCauley, Councilmember – Mayor Pro Tem

David B. Buck, Councilmember

Pat C. Carpenter, Councilmember

David W. McGhee, Councilmember

Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember

Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember

ORDER OF BUSINESS

STUDY SESSION

The Study Session of September 25, 2023 for the City Council of the City of North Augusta, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Briton S. Williams at 6:01 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.”

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 Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, Presnell, and Toole.

Member absent was Councilmember Buck.

Also in attendance were James S. Clifford, City Administrator; Rachele Moody, Assistant Administrator; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; James Sutton, Director of Public Services; Chief John Thomas, Director of Public Safety; Rick Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism; Thomas L. Paradise, Director of Planning and Development; Lynda Williamson, Director of Finance, Kayla Ferguson, Manager of Human Resources; Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology; and Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

ITEM 1. CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Administrator Clifford led Council’s discussion of items for the October 2, 2023 regular meeting. **(See Attachment #1)**

ITEM 2. DEPARTMENT DETAILS:

City department directors and managers provided departmental updates. **(See Attachment #2)**

ITEM 3. MAYOR’S MATTERS:

(A) FOCUS ITEM(S):

- i. Proposed FY 2024 Consolidated Budget – Council Review and Discussion

Administrator Clifford, Assistant Administrator Moody, and Finance Director Williamson presented the proposed balanced Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 consolidated budget to Council. **(See Attachment #3Ai)**

Mr. Clifford highlighted on budget drivers such as the 4% increase in PEBA insurance cost to the employers, 4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to all City employees, grade changes, additional personnel, and transitioning from Lease-Purchase to outright purchase. (See pages 4 through 9 of Attachment 3Ai)

Ms. Moody explained to Council the proposed organization charts where the organizational chart will now have Parks and Recreation as one department and Tourism as another department. Currently, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism department are under one organizational chart. (See pages 10 and 11 of Attachment 3Ai)

Discussion ensued relating to the new structure and personnel within the proposed two departments.

Mr. Clifford commented on staff requests that were not funded on personnel and equipment, personnel change, project/equipment additions, and the Community Fund requests and allocations. (See pages 12 through 17 of Attachment 3Ai)

Discussion ensued relative to the Community Funds and the Friends of North Augusta Animals (FONAA) request. Mr. Clifford clarified that the request from FONAA included items that the City already budget for such as the trap and neuter program (TNR) under Public Safety budget for \$5000.

Ms. Williamson reviewed the updated PRT, Sanitation, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Fire Protection fee schedules. She clarified the increases on each and confirmed that Sanitation fees have no increase. (See pages 18 through 25 of Attachment 3Ai)

Ms. Williamson stated that the effect on the residents with the proposed balanced FY2024 budget will be a 2.0 Mil increase which on a typical home value in North Augusta is approximately \$237,095 for a tax increase of approximately \$19.00. In addition, she reviewed the Riverside Village Debt Service payment process. (See pages 26 through 27 of Attachment 3Ai)

It was the consensus of the board to hold the Public Hearing at 5:30pm on October 16, 2023 as well as the first reading of the budget ordinance. The public hearing notice will be posted on September 28, 2023.

(B) Mayor Williams will share reflections and announcements related to current City events and opportunities

None.

The Study Session adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 2nd DAY OF
OCTOBER, 2023.



Britton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Paul
City Clerk



PUBLIC POWER HOUR

October 2, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. - Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers

DRAFT AGENDA: CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 2, 2023 – 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:**
 - City Council Meeting minutes of September 18, 2023
 - Study Session minutes of September 25, 2023

NEW BUSINESS

5. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:** Ordinance No. 2023-16 to Amend the Zoning Map of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina by Rezoning ± 9.84 Acres of Land Owned by CSRA Development Company, Aiken County Tax Parcel No. 007-15-03-002 from R-10, Medium Lot, Single-Family Residential to R-7, Small Lot, Single-Family Residential – First Reading
6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:** Ordinance No. 2023-17 to Change the Corporate Limits of the City of North Augusta by Accepting the Petition Requesting Annexation by the Landowners and Annexing ±0.27.48 Acres of Property Located at 244 & 246 Clearmont Drive and Owned by Pearle E. Hewitt, Isabella Mackie, Terrce A. Mackie, & Anna Margaret Edwards – First Reading
7. **ADMINISTRATION:** Resolution No. 2023-37 to Authorize the Issuing of a Parade Permit to North Augusta Lions Club to Conduct the 2023 Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 3, 2023
8. **PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM:** Resolution No. 2023-38 Authorizing the City of North Augusta to Accept a Contract for Sharon Jones Amphitheater Additions, Plaza, and New Boat Dock Projects

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**

DEPARTMENT DETAILS*for September 25, 2023***FINANCE:**

- Cycle 2 Disconnect Dates – October 3rd and 4th
- Cycle 1 Due Date – October 5th
- Delinquent Tax Postings on properties - October 2nd and 3rd

PUBLIC SERVICES:

- Declined Trees Replacement
- Wastewater System Smoke Test Update & Revco Road/Industrial Park
- Clay Street Pump Station

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- BZA meeting next Tuesday
- Clean-up of 10051 Atomic Road

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Thursday September 28, Chief will meet with the board members of the Public Safety Foundation
- Currently we have 6 openings in the department. 5 Officers and 1 Dispatcher
- Chief Thomas has announced his retirement date of December 29, 2023

PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM:

- Fall banners and Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee banners are going up this week in downtown North Augusta.
- The Coastal Carolina football team will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Friday night and using the Riverview Park Activities Center on Saturday morning for team breakfast and pre-game meetings. Coastal Carolina will be playing at Georgia Southern on Saturday night.
- Augusta Ironman event.

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- Brick Pond Boardwalk
- Cypress Drive Sidewalk
- Stormwater Conference

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- See the following page for the Employment Opportunities list



EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

Heavy Equipment Operator I – Streets & Drains

Grade: 9

Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56

Closing Date: Until Filled

Maintenance Technician – PRT

Grade: 12

Salary/Pay Rate: \$20.76 - \$24.91/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Meter Reader/Service Technician – Utilities

Grade: 9

Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56

Closing Date: Until Filled

Public Safety Officer – Public Safety

Grade: 15

Salary/Pay Rate: \$22.04 - \$26.45/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Utility Technician – Utilities

Grade: 9

Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56

Closing Date: Until Filled

Utility Service Technician – Utilities

Grade: 13

Salary/Pay Rate: \$21.69 - \$26.03/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

To apply and to see full job descriptions please visit www.northaugustasc.gov/jobs. You may also contact Human Resources for more information at 803-442-5710 or kferguson@northaugustasc.gov.

The City of North Augusta is an Equal Opportunity Employer



North Augusta City Council

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Briefing

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

Purpose:

- To update the public and city council on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 balanced budget proposal

FY 2024 Budget Calendar

Monday	September 25	Council Study Session	Mayor and City Council
Tuesday	September 26	Council Study Session (If Needed)	Mayor and City Council
Thursday	September 28	Publish Public Hearing Notice	Finance Department
Monday	October 16	Budget Hearing	Mayor and City Council
Monday	October 16	Budget Ordinance, First Reading	Mayor and City Council
Monday	November 6	Budget Ordinance, Second Reading	Mayor and City Council
Wednesday	November 8	Publish Public Notice of Enacted Budget	Finance Department

Budget Drivers

- 4% increase in PEBA insurance costs to all local governments in South Carolina
- 4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to all City employees (Archer study recommended 3.7 – 4.2%)
 - 2023 COLA was 4% against a 9.8% recommendation
- Grade changes to Public Safety & CDLs
- Additional personnel (4 FT, 1 PT)
- Transitioning from Lease-Purchase to outright purchase

Budget Drivers (Public Safety)

- Largest cost driver of the budget
- Market Forces are driving the salaries within the State of SC higher

Aiken City Council votes to spend budget surplus on police officer and firefighter raises

BY MATTHEW CHRISTIAN MCHRISTIAN@AIKENSTANDARD.COM
SEP 12, 2023

Aiken County Sheriff Michael Hunt seeking 15% pay raise for his employees

BY DEDE BILES DBILES@AIKENSTANDARD.COM
MAY 25, 2023

Budget Drivers (Public Safety)

New Starting Salaries

- SLED \$58,000
- Dept. of Public Safety - \$55,000
- Dept. of Natural Resources - \$53,000
- Probation, Parole and Pardon - \$50,000

A 15% increase over last years base starting salary for Class I Law Enforcement officers

Dept. of Corrections

- Level I Facility - \$41,000
- Level II Facility - \$46,000
- Level III Facility - \$51,000

Juvenile Justice

- Level I Facility - \$40,500
- Level II Facility - \$43,500

A 6.5% increase over last years base starting salary for Class II Correctional Officers

Budget Drivers (Public Safety & CDLs)

Position	2023 Grade	2023 Minimum	2024 Grade	2024 Salary	2024 Salary (COLA)
Captain	26	\$ 70312.65	27	\$ 72250.88	\$ 75140.92
Lieutenant	20	\$ 58,685.45	21	\$ 60,622.60	\$ 63,047.50
Sergeant	17	\$ 52,871.85	18	\$ 54,809.00	\$ 57,001.36
Corporal	16	\$ 50,933.63	17	\$ 52,871.85	\$ 54,986.72
Public Safety Officer	15	\$ 48,995.40	16	\$ 50,933.63	\$ 52,970.98
Investigator	15	\$ 48,995.40	16	\$ 50,933.63	\$ 52,970.98
Narcotics Officer	15	\$ 48,995.40	16	\$ 50,933.63	\$ 52,970.98
Communications Tech II	11	\$ 41,243.57	12	\$ 43,181.80	\$ 44,909.07
Communications Tech I	9	\$ 37,367.12	10	\$ 39,305.34	\$ 40,877.55
Utility Service Technician	13	\$ 45,120.03	14	\$ 47,058.25	\$ 48,940.58
Foreman	13	\$ 45,120.03	14	\$ 47,058.25	\$ 48,940.58
Vehicle Operator III	10	\$ 39,305.34	11	\$ 41,243.57	\$ 42,893.31
Vehicle Operator II	9	\$ 37,367.12	10	\$ 39,305.34	\$ 40,877.55
Heavy Equipment Operator I	9	\$ 37,367.12	10	\$ 39,305.34	\$ 40,877.55
Heavy Equipment Mechanic I	9	\$ 37,367.12	10	\$ 39,305.34	\$ 40,877.55

Budget Drivers (Lease-Purchase Transition)

Lease Purchase Savings						
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	
Interest Rate	1.709	0.790	1.570	3.515	4.720	
Leased Amount	1,668,463.00	1,728,219.00	1,350,336.00	1,662,154.00	1,553,846.00	
Total Interest	57,700.00	27,305.00	42,395.39	116,772.65	146,525.83	
Budget Savings by Year						
	<u>Public Safety</u>	<u>All General Fund</u>	<u>Enterprise Funds</u>	<u>All Funds</u>		
2025 Budget	95,260	72,968	181,005	349,233		
2026 Budget	111,100	49,652	187,600	348,352		
2027 Budget	135,300	20,949	122,297	278,546		
2028 Budget	155,100	35,577	165,108	355,785		
Total Increase by 2028 Budget	496,760	179,146	656,010	1,331,916		
Requests for 2024 Budget	460,000	247,845	554,001	1,261,846		
Total Budget Impact 2028	956,760	426,991	1,210,011	2,593,762		

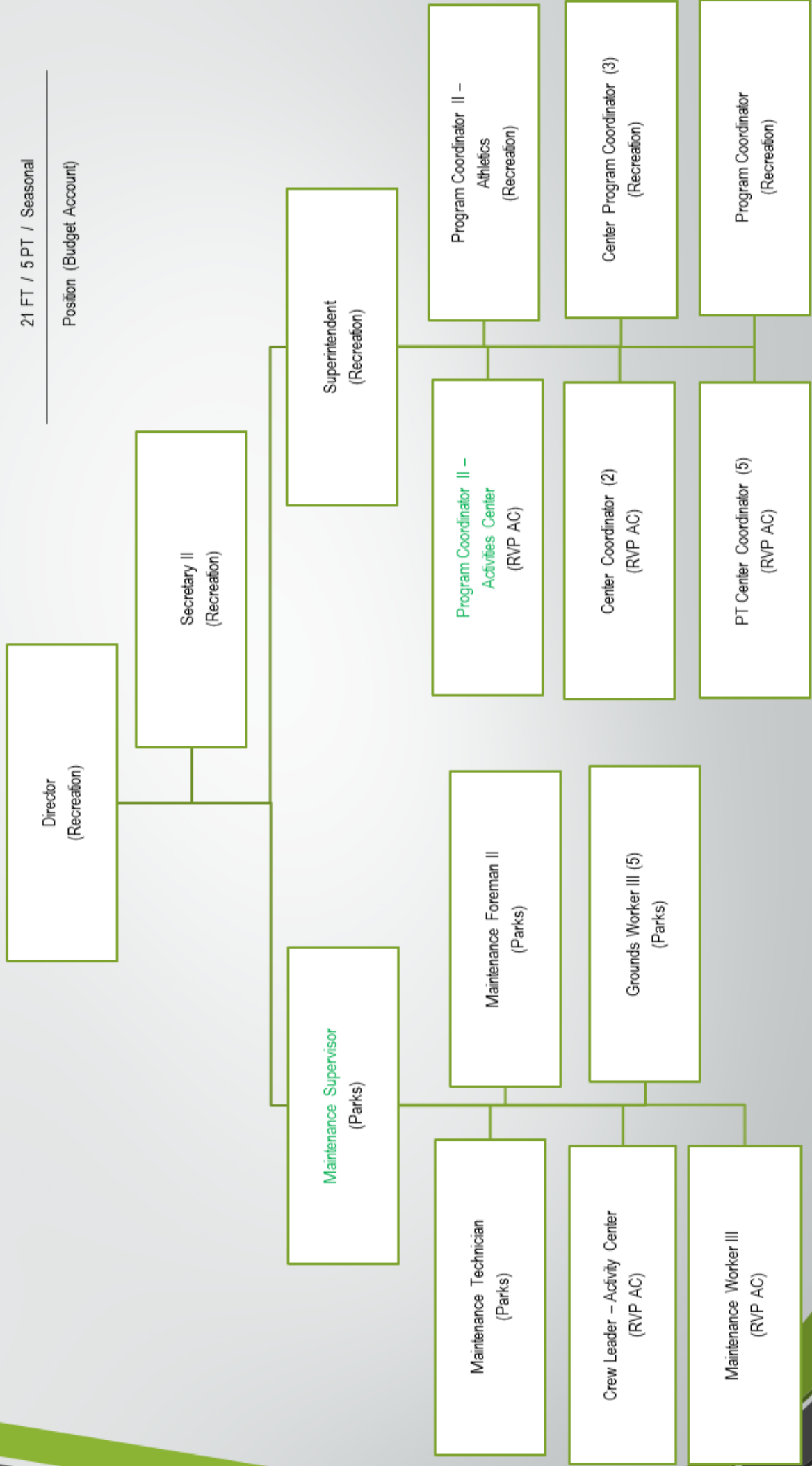
Personnel Additions:

- DPW Engineering Inspector, 1 July start
- DPW Building Inspector, 1 July start
- PRT Maintenance Supervisor
- PRT Program Coordinator II – Activities Center
- Finance Part Time Customer Service Representative (Utilities fund)

Proposed Parks & Recreation Organizational Chart

21 FT / 5 PT / Seasonal

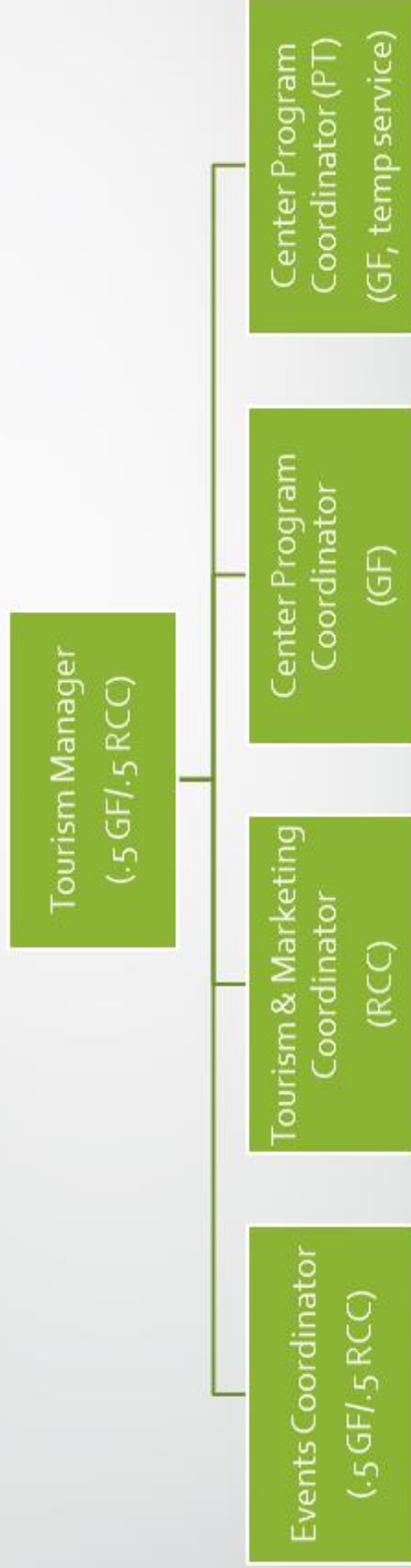
Position (Budget Account)



Proposed Tourism Organizational Chart

4 FT / 1 Temp

(Budget account, position grade)



Requested, but not funded (Personnel):

- Public Safety PSOs x 3
- Public Safety Fire Lieutenant
- Public Safety Administrative Captain
- Public Safety Records Clerk (Need to add in 2025 for new PSHQ)
- PRT Park Ranger (Mitigation plan – Community Policing Grant Request 2024)

Personnel Changes:

- Public Safety Officers -> Captains grade Increase by one
- Public Safety Dispatchers grade increase by one
- Commercial Driver Personnel (all funds) grade increase by one
- Healthcare cost share by employees (\$35,000 savings):
 - Reduction of employer subsidy of employee-only from 75% to 50%

Project / Equipment Additions:

- P&D: US 78 Traffic Studies x 2
- Public Safety Rifles & Optics
- Public Safety K9 x 1

Community Funds:

	Requested	Allocated
Aiken Area Council on Aging	\$5,500	\$4,500
North Augusta Cultural Arts Council	\$5,500	\$4,000
Friends of Nancy Carson Library Foundation	\$20,000	\$5,000
North Augusta Forward	\$20,000	\$6,000
Olde Towne Preservation Association	\$10,000	\$6,000
Public Education Partners	\$7,000	\$3,000
The RECing Crew	\$2,300	\$2,300
Friends of North Augusta Animals	\$10,000	\$0

Requested, but not funded (Equipment):

- Public Safety:
 - Ladder Truck (FEMA Grant request/CPST 5)
 - Brush Truck (CPST 5)
 - 4 x Chevrolet Tahoe vehicles -> pushing for one more year on lower mileage vehicles
- Public Services/DPW:
 - Bolin Road Paving

Requested, but not funded (Equipment):

- PRT: (future General Fund / CPST V / ARPA)
 - Creighton Park Equipment and surface
 - Outdoor Pickleball Courts
 - Resurface tennis courts
 - Golf Cart
 - Activities Center Track Surface
 - Activities Center replacement track surface

* Awaiting Parks Master Plan recommendations

Updated PRT Fee Schedule:

	In City		Out of City		Senior	
	Individual	Family	Individual	Family	Individual	Family
Activities Center Annual			\$80.00		\$150.00	
	Individual	Family	\$185.00		\$405.00	
Activities Center Partial						
	Individual	Family				
Payments						
	Individual	Family				
	Family					
Recreation Programs						
	W/Mem.					
	W/O Mem.					

Updated PRT Fee Schedule:

	In City	Out of City	Senior
Community Center	Room	Rental Fee	
	Large Room	\$2000.00	Fri, Sat – 10 Hr.
	Large Room	\$1500.00	Mon – Thurs – 10 Hr.
	Large Room	\$170.00	Hourly
	Medium Room	\$400.00	8 Hr. - \$50 per additional hour
	Medium Room	\$200.00	4 Hr. - \$50 per additional hour
	Full Center	\$2500.00	10 Hr.
Municipal Center	Full Center Holiday Rate	\$3500.00	10 Hr.
	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 (No Change):

	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 (Increase):

	In City		Out of City	
	Base	+ Per 1,000 Gal.	Base	+ Per 1,000 Gal.
Monthly Charges	\$11.22	\$3.50	\$15.02	\$4.16
Add. Usage (Over 15,000,000 Gallons)		2.78		2.78

Updated Water Fee Schedule (Increase):

Minimum Monthly Charges	In City		Out of City	
	Minimum	Min. Usage	Minimum	Min. Usage
5/8" x 3/4"	\$12.88	3,000	\$25.76	3,000
1"	\$17.84	6,000	\$35.68	6,000
1 1/2"	\$22.48	9,000	\$44.96	9,000
2"	\$31.87	15,000	\$63.74	15,000
3"	\$46.09	24,000	\$92.18	24,000
4"	\$55.57	30,000	\$111.14	30,000
6"	\$150.43	90,000	\$300.86	90,000
Usage Above Minimum	Charge/1,000 Over Minimum		Charge /1,000 Over Minimum	
Next 10,000		\$1.45		\$2.90
Next 27,000		\$1.40		\$2.80
Next 160,000		\$1.35		\$2.70
All Additional		\$1.25		\$2.60

Updated Stormwater Fee Schedule (Increase):

Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)		\$6.00
Single-Family Residential Property		1.00 ERU
Multi-Family Residential Property		.75 ERU

Updated Fire Protection Fee Schedule (Increase):

	Water Service Customer	Contract Customer
Outside Fire Protection Service	\$8.33 per month	\$100.00 per Year

Impacts on residents:

- Water Rate Increase
- Waste Water Increase
- Stormwater Increase
- Fire Protection Fee increase (largely commercial and non-residents)
- PRT Fee Increase out-of-town memberships
- 2.0 MIL Property Tax Increase

Not increasing:

Sanitation Fees

Effect of 2.0 Mill increase on NA residents:

Typical Home Value in North Augusta is approximately \$237,095 (Zillow Home Report, 9/25/23)



Tax increase will be approximately \$19

- 2022 Full Size SUV = approximately \$4 increase



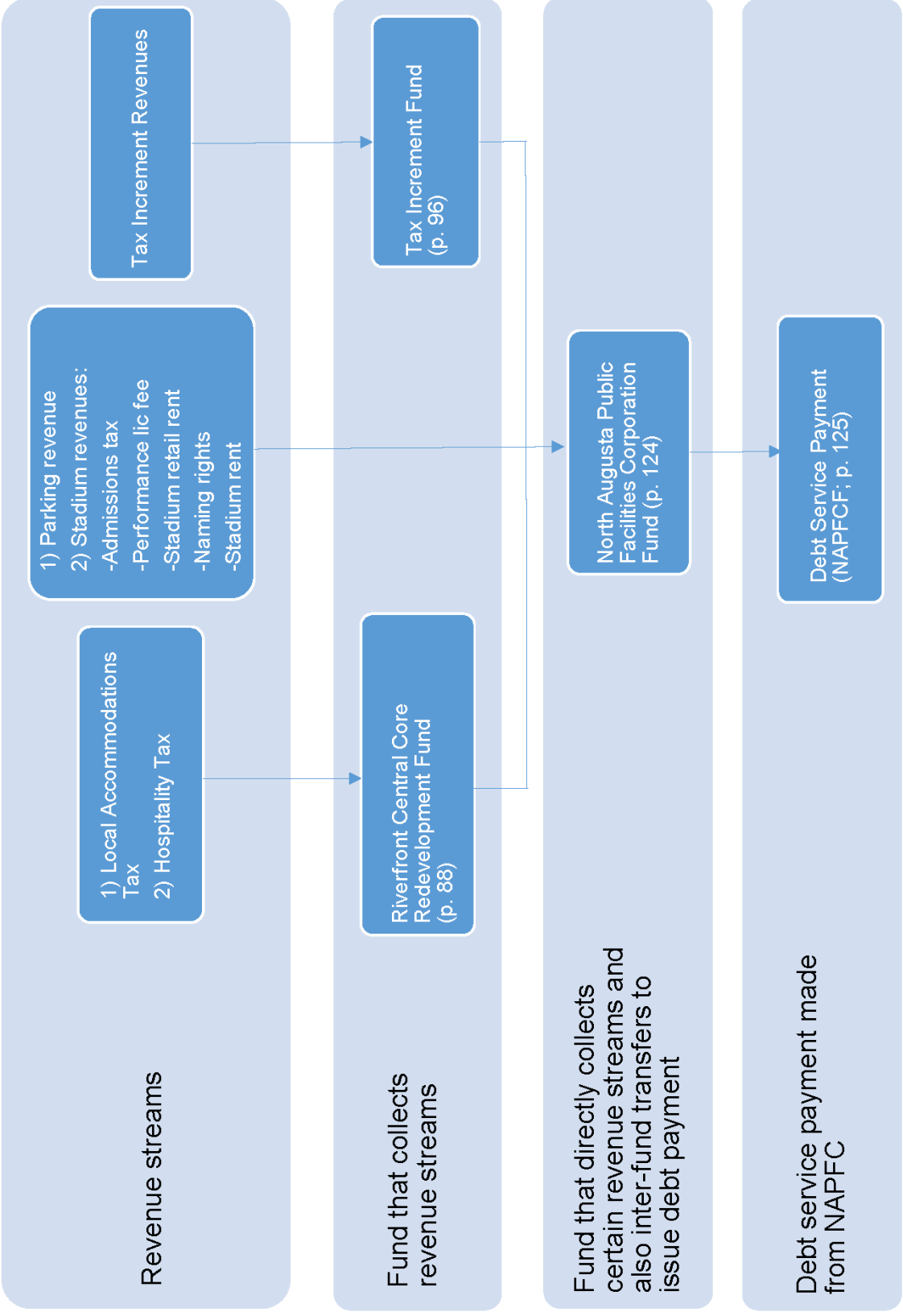
- 2022 Full Size Sedan = approximately \$3.45 increase



*Per Aiken County records, the average tax collected on vehicles in the City of North Augusta is \$46. The 2.0 millage rate would increase the average by \$1.20

Riverside Village Debt Service Payment Process: From revenue streams to payment issuance

This process description is intended to be used by the City solely as an internal summary description of the Riverside Village financing payment process and is not intended to be a detailed, definitive, or exhaustive description of such process. This process description should *not* be used or relied on by any other person at any time for any other purpose.





North Augusta City Council

Discussion

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023