

## **FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

The Clarksburg City Council met in CONFERENCE (Work) SESSION on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5:00 PM at the Clarksburg Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 222 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia, with Mayor Kennedy presiding.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Frank Ferrari  
Marshall Goff  
Lillie Junkins  
Gary Keith  
Jim Malfregeot  
Mayor Ryan Kennedy

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Harry Faulk, City Manager  
Annette Wright, City Clerk

### **COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**

Vice Mayor Jimmy Marino

With attendance taken upon arrival by the City Clerk, Council proceeded with the following agenda item:

- Discussion – Proposed Budget – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

City Manager Faulk presented a PowerPoint presentation to Council overviewing the budget, as well as recognizing such accomplishments as the GeoPlan, a web-based data recorder for all properties that detail many various fields. Such information will be beneficial to the City as it will list everything about the property such as building permits issued, violations, complaints, etc.

Mr. Faulk's presentation listed all the City's accounts and the balances therein, as well as noting the various revenue sources. A pie chart was displayed illustrating how the money is divided among the departments. Mr. Faulk pointed out that our debt was \$4.2 million and listed some the proposed capital purchases in the new budget such as security cameras, the ladder truck, dump truck, roofs, fuel pump system, etc. With \$3.1 million remaining uncollected, Mr. Faulk stated that he hoped this number would be reduced in half by next fiscal year. Discussion was held concerning the Stealey Rec Center noting that the structure needed to be brought up to Code and also needed a roof. Mr. Faulk also mentioned the Compost Facility and the possibility of moving the employees therein to the Street Department and closing down the Compost Center.

Mr. Faulk's PowerPoint presentation also illustrated a Matrice 300 RTK and Zenmuse 200 Series (smart track) drone costing \$32,000 that is also included in this budget. Concluding explanation by Mr. Faulk as to the various funds and balances therein, the Mayor started off the questions by inquiring as to the value of the economic development director with Mr. Faulk stating that this person would also be the grant writer, would work closely with Community Relations and the Clarksburg Visitors' Bureau and would help bring economic development to the City.

With regard to the proposed number of officers in the Police Department, Chief Kiddy explained that he would be losing a couple officers and that an officer wanted to be reinstated. After discussion regarding the Police Department, Chief Kiddy confirmed that he was comfortable with a total of 46 officers, at this time. Discussion was held regarding the staffing of the Fire Department with Chief Pulice apprising of the need and importance of three (3) additional firefighters noting that the fire department does much more than fight fires. Concluding discussion regarding the Fire Department, Council was in agreement to adding the three (3) additional firefighters.

Councilmember Ferrari provided a handout of a revised proposed longevity pay schedule explaining the current schedule and pointing out that the proposal actually reward/recognize senior employees with 20+ years. Councilmember Ferrari pointed out that the last time this matter was addressed was in 2007 and further pointed out that the longevity does not impact the COLA. With regard to the sidewalk project, Councilmember Ferrari noted that interest therein has slowed down and suggested that we look at the same to see if we can get by with less money.

Councilmember Ferrari commended the City Manager on presenting a good budget.

Councilmember Goff remarked that he would like to see the Finance Department get more aggressive on collecting money owed to the City.

Councilmember Junkins opined that we have huge problem in the city with infrastructure and stated that she would like to see the sidewalk program increased and the program enhanced to take so much financial responsibility off the citizens. Mr. Faulk informed that the program would be reevaluated. Councilmember Junkins added that the streets are in need of attention and that while it is the State's responsibility, we need to do whatever it takes to bring the sidewalks into ADA compliance so the State will pave the same. Mayor Kennedy asked the City Manager for a recommendation to Council as to how to proceed with the same. Councilmember Junkins noted that the condition of our roads negatively impact economic development.

Brief discussion was held concerning the proposed 3% COLA, as well as the evaluation system with Mr. Faulk apprising that there would be a range of 0% to 5% with the average being 3%.

With regard to outside organizations, brief discussion was held concerning the monies contributed for the upkeep of the cemeteries with Council in agreement to increase the proposal of \$500 to \$2,000. Council was also in agreement that the monies donated to the Harrison County Senior Citizens Center be earmarked for food services.

Councilmember Malfregeot suggested that Mr. Faulk make a visit to Charleston to meet with the Governor to request funding and also noted that now may be a good time to refinance some of the City's debt due to the low interest rates. Councilmember Malfregeot also suggested that \$50,000 be donated to the MORE project. Mayor Kennedy suggested that the City Manager reach out to the MORE group to see what their needs are and what we can do to help them.

Mayor Kennedy commended the City Manager on a great presentation and great budget.

Meeting adjourned.

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E. Ryan Kennedy, Mayor

Approved: March 4, 2021

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Annette Wright, City Clerk