FEBRUARY 28, 2019

The Clarksburg City Council met in Conference (Work) Session on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Clarksburg Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 222 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
Gary Bowden  
Frank Ferrari  
Marshall Goff  
Ryan Kennedy  
Chad Sigmon  
Vice Mayor Jim Malfregeot  
Mayor Catherine Goings

ALSO PRESENT:  
Martin Howe, City Manager  
James Cann, City Attorney  
Annette Wright, City Clerk

Following roll call, Council proceeded with the following agenda:

**Discussion – Proposed Budget – Fiscal Year 2019-2020**  
Mr. Howe referenced the budget document previously provided to Council, pointing out the following highlights of the budget:

- No increase in taxes and fees
- 2% COLA pay adjustment for City employees ($142,899)
- No increase in PEIA
- Liability insurance ($298,858)
- Police is budgeted for 46 officers
- Budget consists of an increase in the special assignment pay for police and fire (from $486 to $2,000) – noting that the special assignment pay would not be compounded by the COLA
- Increase in the contributions to the police and fire pension funds
- Five (5) new police vehicles which will come from the levy fund
- Annual paving ($450,000)
- Sidewalk program ($30,000)
- The need to purchase a new ladder truck in the near future
- Spring and Fall clean-ups
- Library – $230,000 (increase of $7,550)
- Noted the current debt/loan payments, etc.
- Proposed $155,000 to fix a damaged wall on Austin Avenue
- General bridge repairs - $50,000

With regard to the COLA, Mayor Goings expressed concerns noting the debt service to be considered. Vice Mayor Malfregeot stated that he was in favor of a 3% COLA with Councilmember Kennedy concurring with the Vice Mayor. Councilmember Bowden suggested a 2 1/2% COLA and the possibility of looking at increasing the Christmas bonus. Councilmember Ferrari noted that the Christmas bonus has remained the same and suggested the possibility of increasing the same to $200.00. Concluding discussion, the consensus was for a 3% COLA and $200 Christmas bonus.

Discussion was held concerning agency/organization contributions with the consensus being to put all the United Way funded agencies under one line item for United Way and increase the contribution to $8,600 and direct the disbursement of the monies to the various agencies under the United Way umbrella. Mr. Howe noted the efforts for greater employee participation with United Way.

Vice Mayor Malfregeot suggested funding for a “Robert Wilson Jr.” sign and informed that he was also approached about a sign for Grandma and Ginga. Mayor Goings commented on the need for a policy and procedure for signage. Councilmember Ferrari suggested that the City Manager draft a policy for Council’s review.

With regard to revenues, Councilmember Ferrari suggested we look at raising the utility construction permit noting the agreement we have with the utilities. Councilmember Kennedy remarked that he would like also for the utilities to report back to the City as to the holes they dig.
Councilmember Ferrari commented on the microphone/sound system in Council Chambers in need of upgrading; requested we look at obtaining an estimate for the lighting on Rt. 98 noting the stretch of road that is dark; suggested we include demolition monies in the levy.

Councilmember Goff stated that the police chief needed a secretary with Mr. Howe commenting that the Administration is working on the same, as well as the phone system to help with calls. Councilmember Goff opined that there was a need for in-car cameras in the police cars which would help with liability concerns. Also, Councilmember Goff inquired as to the community sign for the Goff Plaza with Mr. Howe stating that he believed we had the sign and needed a location therefor.

Councilmember Kennedy stated that he agreed that we needed to do whatever we could to make sure our police and fire are paid and equipped as well as they can be.

Councilmember Sigmon inquired as to trash cans for the downtown area with Mr. Bellotte stating that the cans could be moved around and some needed repaired.

Meeting adjourned.

Mayor Catherine A. Goings

Approved: March 21, 2019

Annette M. Wright, City Clerk