

Public Hearing on Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

June 5, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor  
Boyd Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Abbott L. Bray, Jr.  
Eric L. Fowler  
Casey Jordan Hallman  
L. Dale Harley  
Tommy Parler  
Teddy Wingard

Members Absent:

B.J. Unthank

Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator  
Mardi Valentino, City Clerk/PIO  
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development  
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering  
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief  
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge

Rick Hodge, City Treasurer  
Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning  
Charles Garren, Public Works Director  
Justin Black, Staff Accountant  
Matt Edwards, Police Major  
Members of the Public and Press

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Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Mayor Owens called the public hearing to order at 6 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, and The Columbia Star* were notified of the public hearing by e-mail on June 1, 2012.

Agenda Item II – Opening Remarks

Mayor Owens recognized City Treasurer Rick Hodge who gave a brief overview of the budget plan for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Mr. Hodge said General Fund expenses totaled \$13,722,000, which is a 5.2 percent increase over last year's budget of \$13,000,000. The proposed millage for FY 2012-2013 is a total of 61.88 mils of which 55.279 mils are for operations and 6.6 mils are for debt service. Mr. Hodge explained that the net increase for the next fiscal year from the current fiscal year is attributable to increased grant activity, from \$1 million in FY 2011-2012 to an estimated \$1.9 million for FY 2012-2013.

Mr. Hodge described the primary sources of General Fund revenues as including property taxes, business licenses fees, state rebates, hydrant and fire protection fees, police fines and fees, interest, permits and other miscellaneous revenue, transfer from the Water/Sewer Fund and anticipated grant funds. He said the primary areas of expenditures for the General Fund are \$2,893,350 for Administration, which includes most of the grant projects, \$5,159,755 for the Police Department, \$1,849,390 for the Fire Department, and \$1,757,900 for the Streets and Sanitation Departments.

Mr. Hodge stated the proposed budget plan includes a two-percent across-the-board, cost-of-living increase effective July 1, 2012 and up to a three-percent merit increase for employees with satisfactory performance evaluations to be awarded on the anniversary of employment.

Mr. Hodge said the city joined the State Health Plan in 2011 and currently pays the same rates as other comparably-sized entities. Next fiscal year's premiums under the State Health Plan will increase by 4.9 percent. Mr. Hodge recommended that the city continue to pay the employees' portion of the monthly premium for health insurance, which is included in the proposed budget.

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Agenda Item II – Opening Remarks (continued)

Mr. Hodge said the cost of fleet insurance, property and tort liability insurance is provided through Traveler's Insurance Company. He noted that the premiums will remain the same. Workers' Compensation coverage is provided through the South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust. Because the premium is based upon claims and safety experience, the city will experience a reduction in premiums from \$198,000 to \$160,000, which is a 20 percent savings for the next fiscal year. Mr. Hodge commended the Safety Committee for its actions and training which has resulted in the reduction in premiums.

Mayor Owens asked if any council members had any comments or questions on the proposed budget for FY 2012-2013. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Harley who asked for the amount of fines generated by the Police Department last fiscal year. Mr. Hodge responded that the Police Department generated \$480,000 in fines of which the city retained about three to four percent with the rest of the monies going to the state.

Agenda Item III – Public Comments on Budget for FY 2012-2013

Mayor Owens asked if any members of the public had any comments or questions on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 and received no response.

Agenda Item IV – Adjourn

Mayor Owens declared the public hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2012-2013 adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta M. Valentino, CMC  
City Clerk