

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 28, 2020**

Mayor Casavant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** William Emhiser, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Doris Ortiz, Marc Lessard

**Discussion:**

*Review and set dates for upcoming meetings:*

- June 4 – meet with municipal service agencies
- June 9 – Public Hearing on City Government Budget; followed by budget workshop with goal to send budget to City Council
- June 16 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of FY21 City Government Budget
- June 23 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of FY21 City Government Budget

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to accept these dates as proposed.

Mayor Casavant noted that the meetings will start at 6:00 p.m., except for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, which will be determined.

The general consensus of the Council is to ask that if and when the municipal service agencies do address the Council on June 4<sup>th</sup>, that they are asked to only address any changes in their services since the submittal of their original budget request, mostly due to the current pandemic situation. Mayor Casavant suggested that he, Councilor McCurry and City Manager, Jim Bennett will get together and come up with some guidelines for the municipal service agencies for addressing the Council on their budget proposals.

Vote: Unanimous.

*Deliberation of General Fund Budget:*

City Manager, James Bennett gave an overview of where the budget figures currently stand, which included the York County budget and School Department budget. Jim has made a couple of adjustments based on new information that has come in: (1) there is a decrease of \$29,000 for the Teamsters Health Insurance costs; and (2) the ambulance fees revenue is increased by \$90,000 due to the increase seen in ambulance runs.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr to adjust the ambulance revenue line by adding \$90,000.

Vote: 8/1; Councilor Lessard opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready and Ortiz in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr to adjust the Teamsters Health Insurance expenditure by decreasing by \$29,000.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Emhiser to put the following items from the “Deferments Tool Box” in the Contingency account:

- \$150,000 - Capital
- \$43,747 - Vacant PD Patrol Officer
- \$22,175 - Vacant City Clerk’s position
- \$44,985 - Vacant Mechanics position

For a total of \$260,907

Motion by Councilor St. Cyr, seconded by Councilor McCurry to amend the motion by completely cutting the \$249,938, which is shown in the “Deferments Tool Box” as *Savings*.

Councilor Belanger called a point of order noting that the above amendment really does not amend the previous motion, and really should be a separate motion.

Councilors St. Cyr and McCurry withdrew their motion.

Vote on Clearwater/Emhiser motion: 4/5; Councilors McCurry, Lessard, Ortiz and Emhiser in favor.

Councilors St. Cyr, Quattrone, Clearwater, Belanger and Ready opposed.

Motion fails.

Motion by Councilor St. Cyr, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to cut the amount identified as Savings - **\$249,938** in the “Deferments Tool Box.”

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Quattrone to take \$500,000 in surplus and use it to offset the tax rate, ultimately bringing the budget to a \$0 increase.

Motion by Councilor Ortiz, seconded by Councilor Lessard to amend the previous motion by taking \$250,000 of the \$500,000 and put it into the Contingency account and cut the remaining \$250,000.

Vote: 4/5; Councilors Ortiz, Emhiser, Clearwater and Lessard in favor.

Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Belanger and Ready opposed.

Motion fails.

Vote on McCurry/Quattrone motion: 4/5; Councilors McCurry, Quattrone, St. Cyr and Ortiz in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready and Lessard opposed.

Motion fails.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to move \$250,000 of the current fiscal year surplus into the FY21 Contingency account.

Vote: Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone and Ready opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, Clearwater, Belanger, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to cut \$250,000 out of the current fiscal year surplus to offset the tax rate.

Councilor Belanger called a point of order, noting the fact that this motion is exactly the same motion made by Councilor Ortiz earlier in the meeting. City Clerk, Carmen Morris explained that it technically was not the same exact motion and the motion could stand as made.

Councilors Lessard and Clearwater agreed to amend the motion to change the amount to be a \$300,000 cut of the current year surplus.

Vote: 7/2; Councilors Belanger and Ready.

Councilors Emhiser, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Clearwater, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr to propose to take 50%, or up to \$210,237 to reduce the taxes, and take the balance of the funds and put it to the bottom line; which would bring the budget to a \$0 increase.

Vote: 4/5; Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone and Lessard in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready and Ortiz opposed.

Motion fails.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.