



**CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES– BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
Monday June 12, 2023 @ 11:00 am**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting began at 11:03 am. Mayor Reynolds conducted roll call. Council members Inman, Howard Wynn, and Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard were in attendance.

Council member Honore was not in attendance during roll call.

Council member Honore arrived at 11:05 am.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard to approve the June 12, 2023 Budget Work Session agenda. Council member Inman seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

III. Discussion Items

a. FY 2024 Budget

Keshaa Mcgurn, the city's accountant began the meeting by asking Mayor and Council if there were any questions about what has been discussed and/or edited thus far. There was discussion about the proposed tax increase and the estimated revenue for the business licenses. The accountant explained that the proposed tax increase was related to the proposed millage rate and the business license revenue was based on the current year's actuals. She then proceeded to give her recommendations to balance the proposed budget starting with visiting the City's current salaries. She also recommended that the request for new public safety vehicles be modified or put on hold until later in the fiscal year.

Chief Dejarnette, City Administrator, explained that the city current had several vehicles in the shop and was looking to completely lose at least one. He also explained that there is a four-to-five-month delay in receiving vehicles even after purchase as many things are still suffering from supply issues. Chief Dejarnette informed the Mayor and Council that as of Friday, the city of Lithonia was awarded a grant totaling 1.3 million towards a youth center and program and another 265 thousand towards the police department. He explained these funds will supplement the expense of upfitting the proposed newly purchased vehicles as well as cover the expense of new small police equipment. By purchasing new small equipment such as police radios, the city would be saving money on expensive repairs.

Chief Djarnette stated that he would agree with the city's accountant to modify the salary increases for the Police officers to 6% but would like to see Major Patterson and Public Works Director Munson to keep their suggested increases to remain competitive in pay.

Ms. MCGurn asked about the Stormwater fund and if Public Works's salaries were taken as a percentage. Chief DeJarnette stated that there is a current study taking place to increase the stormwater fee and that more discussions could be had later about that impact and a higher percentage taken for Public Works Salaries.

Chief DeJarnette explained that more information on the grant funding and requirements will be provided in a meeting with the State of Georgia later today at 2 pm. He explained that he would provide the accountant with additional information for the Mayor and Council to review before the final budget meeting on June 20th.

There was much discussion about the cost of purchasing new public safety vehicles in comparison to pre-owned vehicles as well as purchasing vehicles or choosing to lease the new public safety vehicles instead. Chief DeJarnette also explained what public safety vehicles were still in use and which ones were currently requiring repairs.

Ms. MCGurn requested that Chief DeJarnette provide her with additional information pertaining to the grant, millage rate, and the Stormwater study on increasing salaries. Ms. MCGurn also clarified the salaries with a 6% increase projected for the upcoming year for Mayor Reynolds.

I. **Adjournment**

Motion – made Council Member Howard to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting ended at 12:09 pm.

Attest:



City Clerk



Mayor Shameka Reynolds