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Town of Louisa
June 13, 2024
Full Council Budget Work Session #3

Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Jessi Lassiter, Vice Mayor; Sylvia L. Rigsby, John Purcell IV, A. Daniel Carter, Vicky Harte, Council members; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Town Manager, Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk/Treasurer

Also in Attendance: Roger Henry, 303 Cutler Avenue; Daniel Crawford, 107 Patrick Henry Drive

All copies including: reports, handouts, and documents can be found following the minutes.

Mayor Nuckols brought the full council budget work session to order at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Nuckols asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to speak. Roger Henry, town resident at 303 Cutler Avenue, stood and spoke first requesting that Council have their “facts together” as they go into the work session as he hears a lot of “guesstimating going on”. Mr. Henry spoke specially about salaries, ownership and maintenance of the sewer treatment plant; and water/sewer rates. Second to speak was Daniel Crawford, town resident at 107 Patrick Henry Drive. Mr. Crawford stated that he has spoken at previous meetings and his opinion and position has not changed. He encouraged Council to “do the right thing with this budget and remember our law enforcement, our lower paid employees, and our citizens on fixed incomes when it comes time to vote.” Mr. Crawford then referenced comments and/or conversations amongst Council and staff at previous meetings, and stated, “if my opinion does not matter, please do not send me a tax ticket, and I will not give you my opinion.”

1 Mayor Nuckols then moved on asking Council what area of the
2 budget they would like to discuss first, and Council member Purcell
3 replied with water and sewer.
4

5 Council then referred to Mrs. Nelson's agenda and packet which
6 featured a water and sewer rate analysis, and salary chart.
7

8 Mrs. Nelson's packet reflected Council's comments and requests
9 made at the June 4th work.
10

11 **The following items were discussed at length by Council and**
12 **staff:**
13

14 • **Water/Sewer:**

- 15 - Water Authority's vote to increase rates by 20% at
 - 16 their June 12th meeting,
 - 17 - History of the town's water and sewer funds and how
 - 18 they operate,
 - 19 - History of the ownership and operation of the sewer
 - 20 treatment plant,
 - 21 - Town's Options
- 22

23 Council member Purcell proposed an 11.5% water increase, and a
24 15% sewer increase.
25

26 After some discussion, Council agreed to move forward with Mr.
27 Purcell's suggestion.
28

29 • **Staff Salaries:**

- 30 - 6% & 3% compression raises,
 - 31 - Mid-year probationary raises,
 - 32 - Employee retirements,
 - 33 - Vacation payouts
- 34

35 After a lengthy discussion, Council member Purcell proposed
36 implementing the 6% & 3% compression raises without mid-year
37 probationary raises for new hires. Council member Lassiter stated
38 that she was in favor of the 6% and 3% compression raises including
39 mid-year probationary raises. Council members Rigsby and Harte

1 stated that they were also in favor of the suggested compression
2 raise and mid-year raise.

3
4 Council agreed to move forward with the 6% and 3% compressed
5 raise with mid-year probationary raises for new hires.

6
7 **ADJOURNMENT**

8
9 At 7:03 p.m., Council member Lassiter moved to adjourn the meeting.
10 Council member Purcell seconded the motion.

11
12
13 _____
14 Mayor

15 _____
16 Clerk