

City of Bowdon
Mayor and Council Budget Work Session
June 9, 2014
6:00PM

Budget Work Session:

Mayor Keith Crawford called the Budget Work Session to order at 6:00PM. In attendance were: Mayor Crawford, Councilmembers Jan Johnson, Marty Johnson and Jim Chaffin – Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre was out of town. Also present were City Manager Jimmy Meigs and City Clerk Susan Pierce.

City Manager Meigs said there were no changes to the proposed budget from the last work session. A couple of the main items are the 2% pay increase for City employees and a 10% increase to cover group health care premium increases. He also reported that we had just renewed our liability insurance, and that we have not yet received our tax digest.

Keith noted that YTD numbers had changed since receiving the April financial reports. Marty said that collections looked decent. Keith asked about depreciation not included in the water plant budget this year (page 20); Jimmy said since it was a non-cash item, it was backed out on page 21. Keith asked then if the numbers shown were actual, and Jimmy said yes, depreciation has never been included in the budget. Keith then asked about the new line items under Copeland Hall for the Main Street program; Jimmy said Main Street will eventually be separated. He said we added \$5000 for Main Street training by decreasing the budget in Streets.

Jan asked about Mayor and Council line item for administration fees; this item has been used for public notices published in the newspaper. Also, we went over on legal fees, so she asked if the \$2000 under Business Dues & Fees could be moved up to legal fees since nothing was used out of it; it is possible, but we would have to do a Budget Amendment. Jan also asked about the contract labor under Streets; Jimmy said that covers brining in someone for occasional work such as patchwork.

Keith said he was glad to see positive numbers in the General Fund which comes to about \$1.5 million annualized. He is also happy to see we are holding expenses down.

Jim asked why the 2014 FICA amount was so low in Water Administration; Jimmy said something may have been assigned incorrectly. Jan asked about Public Safety – were some of those misjudged. Jim asked why there was an increase in overtime and part time in Water Maintenance; Jimmy said there are three part time employees who will be added to regular payroll; also, he included the part time wages in with the regular payroll.

Jim asked about the previous cleaning service at the Senior Center; Jimmy said the previous lady had quit to take another job. He said he had looked at cleaning services before, and he may review them again. Marty said he was against any budget decreases for Public Safety; he and Keith voiced their concerns, but Jimmy informed them that the areas decreased helped to increase the wages which will be used to hire another officer. There was also a question about Accounting Fees under Mayor & Council; it was suggested that those be posted under Water Administration.

Keith said he was extremely pleased with the format and information included in our financial reports. He then reminded everyone of the next meeting on Monday, June 16 at 9:00am which is a called Council meeting to approve the budget. Since a couple of the Council members had a conflict on this date, the meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, June 17 at 9:00am instead.

City of Bowdon
Mayor and Council Meeting
June 9, 2014
7:15PM

I.-IV. Agenda Items:

The Mayor and City Council met during a regular session on Monday, June 9th, 2014, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, 136 City Hall Avenue, Bowdon Georgia. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Crawford at 7:15PM. Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Susan Pierce.

Members present: Mayor Keith Crawford
Councilmember Jim Chaffin
Councilmember Marty Johnson
Councilmember Jan Johnson

Absent: Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre

Staff present: City Manager Jimmy Meigs Police Chief Mark Brock
City Clerk Susan Pierce

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Jim Chaffin, and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Crawford recognized special guest Jessica Reynolds from the Department of Community Affairs. She was formerly with the Carrollton Main Street program.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of Mayor & Council Meeting of May 12th, 2014 were read and presented for approval.
Motion by Councilmember Jan Johnson to approve the minutes; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Business Session

A. Public Hearing for the proposed budget for FY 2015:

Bill Sikes presented a report on the 2008 SPLOST funds distributions; he is concerned that Bowdon is not getting their fair share. He was assured by Mayor and Council that the County was very meticulous in keeping records, and that we have been receiving our share. Peggy Sikes then added that “the numbers don’t seem to jive”. Marty asked what her point was, and she replied that Jimmy’s budget numbers didn’t jive with the County report. Keith informed Mr. and Mrs. Sikes that everything with SPLOST balanced, and that the County manages the SPLOST funds extremely close, and that the funds are closely audited.

Councilmember Marty Johnson made a motion to close the Public Hearing; Councilmember Jim Chaffin seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

B. BAUCM proposal for use of a portion of the old Grammar School building:

Eddie Holz from Bowdon Area United Christian Ministries submitted a written request to the Council to consider leasing the cafeteria building at the old Bowdon Primary School, with the hall and three classrooms adjacent, as well as the exterior area of the building. The BAUCM needs a place to relocate. Their organization provides an important service to the Bowdon community. They are asking for a 25-year lease at \$1.00 per year. They will pay for all upgrades, utilities, landscaping, etc. Keith asked if the zoning was okay for this use, and Mignon Wessinger, Chairman of the Planning Commission, verified that it was a permitted use. Keith thanked Eddie for his presentation.

VII. Financial Session:

- A. Financial reports as of 04/30/2014 were included with council packages.
- B. Mayor Crawford stated that the cash balances were also included in the Council packages.

VIII. Public Comment:

Mignon Wessinger, 218 E. College Street, spoke again concerning the possible sale of the old Grammar School property. She said that the majority of McDonald's employees have an average pay of \$19,000 per year, and some even qualify for food stamps. She also said that their business hours would be subject to change. She still does not think it would be good for the City. Marty said that these were points to consider, and that it was not an argument. Daniel Holz commented also, saying that he has serious concerns about the light pollution and paper waste that may be produced if a fast-food restaurant built on the property. He was also concerned with the lack of space and the aesthetic impact, saying he thought it would compromise the overall look of Bowdon.

Ms. Fannie Sullivan commented that Council was doing a good job, and she has seen improvement over the years. She also said she was proud that the churches were providing lunches for the school children over the summer.

At this time, Mayor Crawford asked that Council move into Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.

Motion by Councilmember Jim Chaffin to enter into Executive Session; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

IX. Executive Session.

Motion by Councilmember Jim Chaffin to move out of Executive Session; second by Councilmember Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilmember Jan Johnson to adjourn Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Jim Chaffin; motion carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Mayor Keith Crawford

City Clerk Susan Pierce