

BUDGET COMMITTEE

November 9, 2020

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Willie Campbell, Patty Woodby, Charles VonCannon, Austin Jaynes, Ross Garland, Travis Hill, Aaron Frazier and Robin McKamey
ABSENT: none
CALL TO ORDER: Travis Hill, Chairman
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, this meeting was held electronically to protect the health, Safety and welfare of the public.

AGENDA: Chairman Hill amended the agenda by adding the Circuit Clerk's copier lease. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Ross Garland to approve the agenda with the amendment. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion was made by Patty Woodby, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the minutes of the October meeting. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

OLD BUSINESS: Next on the agenda was the discussion of the 2020-2021 Planning Budget. Chairman Hill stated it was his understanding that the remittance for electrical permits was taken out of the budget but the revenue from the revenue side was not. Director Burke stated the associated expense was moved around in the Planning Budget and would be considered an increase to their budget. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve the Planning Budget prior to discussion. By a roll call vote of 4 ayes (Austin Jaynes, Ross Garland, Travis Hill & Robin McKamey) and 4 nays (Willie Campbell, Patty Woodby, Charles VonCannon & Aaron Frazier) the vote was a tie. As this matter was sent back to the Budget Committee by the full Commission it was decided to send it back to the full Commission once again for their determination. The consensus of the entire committee was that in the future all budgets go through the proper channels before the budget process begins.

Chairman Hill stated he had received a letter from the Volunteer Fire Association requesting the \$52,500 set aside for the seven (7) Volunteer Fire Departments be distributed equally to each department. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve their request in an amount of \$7,500 to each Volunteer Fire Department and send to the full Commission for their approval. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: As there has been a Special Called meeting to replace the late Mayor Rusty Barnett it was discussed if the Commissioners would be paid for this meeting. Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Willie Campbell to set aside an amount not to exceed \$2,600 from unassigned fund balance to compensate the Commissioners. By a roll call vote of 7 ayes & 1 nay from Charles VonCannon the motion carried.

Chairman Hill stated he had been approached by a School Board member regarding payment for their meetings. It was stated they receive \$100 for one (1) scheduled meeting whether they are in attendance or not. As there have been several Special Called meetings scheduled without any compensation for the members, motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Willie Campbell to pay the members \$50 for each additional called meeting but only if they are actually in attendance. By a roll



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call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Aaron Frazier addressed the committee giving an impressive presentation of his research on the creation of a Carter County Economic and Recreational Development Department. After much discussion and the committee members agreeing this issue was of the utmost importance to the County and learning the City had shown an interest in being involved, motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Ross Garland to refer the matter to the Financial Management Committee to discuss the necessary groundwork and possibly set up a joint call between the City and County before actually setting aside funds for the project. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

The proposed bonuses for County employees, an amount of \$1,000 for full-time employees and \$500 for part-time employees to come from the CARES ACT grant was next on the agenda. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Patty Woodby to approve the employee bonuses. Ross Garland questioned whether the bonus could include the Christmas bonus as well. The motion was amended to \$1,250 for full-time employees and \$625 for part-time which would include their Christmas bonuses. Mayor Woodby rescinded her second to this motion due to the fact it could be a conflict of interest in her present situation and Aaron Frazier then seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 6 ayes and 2 abstaining votes from Willie Campbell and Patty Woodby, motion carried.

Commissioner Acuff representing the Animal Shelter, addressed their request to have the funds put in the Sheriff's Department's budget for an Animal Control officer be transferred back to the Animal Shelter budget and a request for \$50,000 to hire two (2) Animal Control officers. Director Posada stated the Sheriff's Department had been unable to provide an Animal Control officer for the last few months due to staffing issues within their department. She gave figures of the number of City/County animal control calls for a period of time and the County calls were substantially higher. Patty Woodby stated if the county was going to provide the animal shelter and animal control for the citizens of the county, it should be 100% or not at all. When questioned as to when the Animal Ordinance being prepared would be in place, Dr. Acuff said it was to be brought before the Animal Shelter Board at the meeting tomorrow night and if approved it would be forwarded to all Commissioners. Motion was made by Patty Woodby, seconded by Robin McKamey to move the funds from the Sheriff's budget for animal control to the Animal Shelter's budget and approve their request for \$50,000 for animal control officers. By a roll call vote of 5 ayes and 3 nays from Charles VonCannon, Austin Jaynes and Aaron Frazier, motion carried.

Mayor Woodby requested \$3,000 for a pay raise for Roy Silver, a maintenance worker employed by the County. She presented a memo she had received from Ron Kirby, co-worker of Mr. Silver's for the past twelve (12) years which stated all of his qualifications and the reasons he was such a necessary employee. Mayor Woodby related to the committee these two (2) employees had saved the County a considerable amount of money giving Nor-Well and the gate in the Clerk and Master's office as an example. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Willie Campbell to approve the raise in the amount of \$3,000. A friendly amendment by Austin Jaynes was made to increase the salary \$5,000 and was accepted by Mr. Frazier. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Brad Burke requested the approval of the committee to dispose of excess property via GovDeals. Included in the properties was a computer and several chairs. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the disposition of the properties. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Financial Director Burke addressed the committee regarding the purchase of a Capital Asset Module on Skyward for recording and tracking capital assets. He stated the initial cost would be \$9,934 with an annual reoccurring amount of \$1,647. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Patty Woodby to approve the purchase. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

EMA Director Smith requested funds to upgrade the tower on Holston Mountain in the amount of \$33,796. He said the funds would be for maintenance, repair, generator, repeater, propane tanks, etc. He stated their only available frequency was at the Courthouse and in an emergency they have to use the Sheriff's Department, Road Department or Volunteer Fire Department frequencies which caused delays. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Willie Campbell to fund the EMA's request with \$11,733.45 coming from the Governor's grant and 22,062.55 coming from unassigned fund balance. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve the copier lease for the Circuit Clerk's office from funds available in their budget. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Financial Director Burke presented the balance of funds left in the unassigned fund balance account in the amount of \$1,042,274.48, CARES grant in the amount of \$656,868.08 and Governor's Support grant in the amount of \$22,314.45. The figures represent balances of these funds before additional appropriations were made during this meeting.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Willie Campbell to approve General Fund #101, Budget Amendment #5, Items 1 thru 17 in the amount of \$190,803.46. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Ross Garland to approve Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund #116, Budget Amendment #1, Items 1 thru 5 in the amount of \$21,255.56. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve Drug Control Fund #122, Budget Amendment #1, Item 1 in the amount of \$500. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Willie Campbell to approve General Debt Service Fund #151, Budget Amendment #1, Item 1 in the amount of \$2,300. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Patty Woodby, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve General Purpose School Fund #141, Budget Amendment #4, Items 1 thru in the amount of \$328,434.81. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve School Federal Projects Fund #142, Budget Amendment #4, Item 1 in the amount of \$1,979.81. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Willie Campbell to approve the monetary donations to the Animal Shelter in the amount of \$1,770 and Carter County Schools in the amount of \$1,800 for the month of October 2020. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Ross Garland to approve the non-monetary donations from Walmart to the Animal Shelter for the month of October 2020. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Willy Campbell stated he felt he could speak for most of the Commissioners in saying the Governor's grant has been used wisely by the County. Charles VonCannon stated that he felt the 9 million dollars in fund balance should be utilized to benefit the County and invested outside of the County. He asked why the Constables could not be used instead of SRO Officers at the schools and employed only during the school year. He further stated the "animal" situation was not good and suggested the Animal Shelter could transition into a 501-C-3 non-profit and would then be able to have fund raisers they were restricted from having at present. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Aaron Frazier to refer the transition of the Animal Shelter to a 501-C-3 non-profit to the Financial Management Committee. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

On motion by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Aaron Frazier, the meeting adjourned by a voice roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved for entry:

Suzi Wallace

Travis Hill, Chairman