

SPENCER BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011
6:00 P.M.
SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jody Everhart (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
Mayor Pro-Tem Scott Benfield
Aldermen: Tracy Aitken
Delaine Fowler
Jeff Morris
Reid Walters

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alderman: David Smith

Also present were Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Lisa Perdue, Police Chief Mike James, Fire Chief Gray Grubb, Land Management Director Dustin Wilson, and Public Works Director Jeff Bumgarner. Mayor Pro-Tem Scott Benfield opened the meeting with prayer.

1. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Town Manager Smith reviewed the handouts, stating that the budget is a draft with notes on the side about items that are still not definite. He reviewed the history of the tax rate since the 1996/97 fiscal year. Revenues and expenditures are shown with a 60 cent tax rate vs. a 65.6 cent tax rate (revenue neutral).

A new fee is proposed for mulch during the rest of the year outside of the standard mulch give-aways twice a year for Spencer residents. This fee would generate new revenue.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ADOPT THE BOARD'S REGULAR RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THIS WORK SESSION (MAJORITY VOTES). MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN AITKEN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN AITKEN TO ADOPT THE MULCH FEE AS PROPOSED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Staff is studying the possibility of forming an events committee that would meet with organizers of events and oversee event planning. A schedule of rental fees for various parks and buildings could provide additional revenue. The events committee would keep the Town Board informed of their procedures, budget, etc. Board members stated they would not be in favor of charging fees to the Little League.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED EVENTS FEES AS INFORMATION AND REFER FOR FURTHER STUDY BY STAFF AND A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WALTERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Mayor Everhart arrived at this point in the meeting.)

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD THAT NO MERIT OR COST OF LIVING PAY INCREASES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE 2011/12 BUDGET. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN AITKEN AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR:

AYES: AITKEN, BENFIELD, MORRIS, WALTERS

NAYS: FOWLER

Estimates are that approximately \$38,000 will be saved by the current insurance plan vs. the previous plan. There is no proposal to change plans for 2011/12.

Spencer Business Association will continue to work with staff on downtown marketing, etc. Small Town Main Street will be on the May agenda. Consensus of the Board was in favor of STMS although no formal vote was taken.

Although a Facilities Needs Study will be needed before any more money can be borrowed for capital building improvements, there is no money in this year's budget for that study. Staff is working on a plan of how to accomplish a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in-house and will bring a recommendation to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO CUT THE \$2000 FOR NONPROFIT GRANT PROGRAMS FROM THE 2011/12 BUDGET. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FOWLER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Staff will contact Rufty-Holmes and Oakdale Baptist and get information about the number of program participants from Spencer, and what programs are offered.

There was discussion about upcoming needs at the Eighth Street ballpark and how much responsibility the Town absorbs there. Alderman Walters relayed that the Little League Association had already mentioned to him that they would be willing to tile the bathroom floors.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ASK SPENCER LITTLE LEAGUE TO BEAR THE COST OF REPLACING THE NETTING AT THE BALLPARK. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN AITKEN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO KEEP THE SAME BUDGETED AMOUNT FOR THE FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM IN 2011/12, BUT IF FUNDS ARE STILL REMAINING IN APRIL, OPEN THE PROGRAM TO TAKE APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FOWLER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The State of North Carolina has discontinued payment for the security contract at the Museum, so that revenue is no longer reflected in the budget.

Public Works Director Jeff Bumgarner reviewed his Solid Waste Department Comparison and Proposal. He has listed two options for trash collection: 1) continue our current system, or 2) in-house curbside trash collection with current recycling system. The only change in either option concerning recycling is establishing a more stable base at the convenience site at a cost of about \$2700.

A change to curbside would potentially incur the cost of unemployment benefits for the eliminated position. Curbside trash collection would also have the initial expense of the purchase of carts, which residents could be required to purchase themselves. Morris suggested a temporary fee increase to implement the new program.

The recommendation from Public Works is to shorten the leaf vacuum program to four months – October through December, plus the month of March for final spring cleanup. A fee is proposed for any large piles of brush or any over the maximum length and diameter as specified in the ordinance.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO IMPLEMENT THE BULK PICKUP POLICY FOR ANY BRUSH OVER FOUR INCHES IN DIAMETER, AND A FEE FOR CONTRACTORS IF THEY CHOOSE TO UTILIZE TOWN SERVICES FOR PICKUP. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For rollout carts, elderly could show a handicap placard or a doctor's note for exemption. Carts would not be allowed to remain curbside over 24 hours. Alderman Walters would like to open the bid process for privatization.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO: 1) EXPLORE CURBSIDE GARBAGE PICKUP WITH A \$3 PER MONTH SURCHARGE WITH SUNSET PROVISION OF 18 MONTHS AND A REIMBURSEMENT FOR SELF-PURCHASES AS VERIFIED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 2) HANDICAP EXEMPTION FOR ROLL-OUT, AND 3) 24-HOUR STRICT ENFORCEMENT FOR REMOVING THE CART FROM THE CURB WITH A RECOMMENDATION BY STAFF FOR ENFORCEMENT BY A FEE / FINE. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FOWLER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE TO SHORTEN LEAF PICKUP AND COLLECT ONLY FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL MONTH IN THE SPRING. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FOWLER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board reviewed the list of proposed capital expenditures for 2011/12.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN FOWLER TO DELETE THE RECYCLING CENTER PAD FOR \$2700 FROM THE PROPOSED BUDGET. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN AITKEN AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR:

AYES: AITKEN, FOWLER, MORRIS, WALTERS

NAYS: BENFIELD

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO GET AN ESTIMATE FROM ROWAN COUNTY FOR DOING PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF SPENCER. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FOWLER AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR:

AYES: BENFIELD, FOWLER, MORRIS, WALTERS

NAYS: AITKEN

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN FOWLER TO CUT BOARD MEMBER SALARIES BY 40% FOR 2011/12. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF THREE:

AYES: AITKEN, FOWLER, MORRIS

NAYS: BENFIELD, WALTERS

MOTION WAS THEN MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO CUT THE ENTIRE SALARY FOR BOARD MEMBERS FROM THE BUDGET FOR 2011/12. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FOWLER AND DEFEATED BY A VOTE OF THREE:

AYES: FOWLER, WALTERS

NAYS: AITKEN, BENFIELD, MORRIS

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Perdue, CMC
Clerk to the Board