

Minutes of the Centerville **City Council Special Meeting** held Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. with participants present at Centerville City Hall, 250 North Main Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor	Clark Wilkinson
Council Members	Gina Hirst William Ince George McEwan Robyn Mecham Spencer Summerhays

STAFF PRESENT

Brant Hanson, City Manager
Lisa Romney, City Attorney
Jennifer Robison, City Recorder
Nate Plaizier, Finance Director
Cory Snyder, Community Development Director
Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director
Paul Child, Centerville Police Chief
Lt. Allen Ackerson, Centerville Police Department
Mike Carlson, Public Works Director

BUDGET RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

City Newsletter - At a previous meeting, the Council and staff discussed rising costs and effectiveness of the City newsletter. City Manager Brant Hanson reported staff found a company that would print the newsletter for less. The Council and staff discussed the possibility of reducing to one annual newsletter prior to 4th of July celebrations, with seasonal recreation opportunities included with utility mailings, and the possibility of eliminating newsletter mailings entirely in favor of digital communication. Councilmember Summerhays said he liked the idea of a monthly digital newsletter/communication, with a link included in utility mailings. Councilmember Mecham expressed the opinion that a mailing for seasonal recreation opportunities should continue. Mayor Wilkinson said he liked the idea of an annual "state of the city" printing prior to 4th of July celebrations. Councilmember Hirst suggested a one-page insert with 4th of July information included with a utility mailing. Mr. Hanson said staff would further explore digital options, and suggested leaving \$5,000 in the FY 2024 Budget for at least one mailing.

Tuition Reimbursement Policy - Mr. Hanson said he had received requests from three employees desiring to take advantage of the tuition reimbursement policy, and had included \$8,000 in the FY 2024 Budget for the purpose (\$2,000 per employee with potential for four employees total). He spoke of the possibility of a budget amendment if more than four employees requested the benefit.

General Plan - Community Development Director Cory Snyder announced that he would retire at the end of 2023. He expressed the opinion that a rebranding study and a General Plan update could be complimentary. Mr. Snyder said he believed Centerville was a suburban community with development opportunity on the west side, and a desire to protect residential areas and preserve a commercial base. He suggested a General Plan update could be accomplished with a mix of internal and external work, potentially releasing an RFP in the Fall, and work beginning at the start of 2024 under direction of a new Community Development Director.

1 Mr. Hanson suggested releasing a two-part survey to the community with questions
2 relating to both the branding effort and the General Plan update. He estimated the branding effort
3 would take four to six months, with results helping to inform the General Plan update.
4 Councilmember McEwan said he knew from experience that participation in a survey was limited
5 beyond four questions. The FY 2024 Budget currently included \$80,000 for the General Plan
6 update.

7
8 Public Works – The Council and staff discussed funding included in the FY 2024 Budget
9 for beacons/flashers at the 400 South 400 West intersection (\$9,000). Mr. Hanson said interest
10 had been expressed in more digitized speed limit signs, and spoke of the benefit of data collected.
11 Public Works Director Mike Carlson pointed out the signs could be moved to different locations.
12 Police Chief Paul Child suggested improvements at the pedestrian crossing near the library
13 should be priority, as well as the 400 South/400 West intersection improvements already in the
14 budget. Chief Child mentioned that the intersection of 400 South and 400 East had also been a
15 concern. Mr. Hanson suggested including pedestrian crossing improvements at two intersections
16 per year in the budget, and a majority of the Council appeared to agree.

17
18 Mr. Hanson mentioned transportation utility fees, and suggested the Council wait a year
19 to see what came out of existing court cases and the 2024 Legislative Session. Mr. Carlson said
20 he would recommend a water rate increase for FY 2025, and spoke in favor of regular small
21 increases to build up a reserve and avoid the need to bond.

22
23 Sanitation Fund – The City Council recently approved an amendment to the City's
24 agreement with Ace Disposal, extending the contract term. Mr. Plaizier commented that collection
25 fees with Ace would increase 7.1% as of July 1, 2023. He added that the City had also
26 experienced an increase in tipping volume in recent years, and the cost of containers had
27 increased. Staff advised that the fund balance was not sufficient to continue covering the fee
28 increase, and recommended an increase in resident waste disposal rates. Mr. Plaizier said he
29 anticipated the recommended rate increase would be sufficient to cover fees in FY 2024 and FY
30 2025. A majority of the Council appeared to agree with the recommended rate increase.

31
32 Gravel and Sand Pit Sales Tax Distribution – Mr. Plaizier and Mr. Hanson explained recent
33 legislation regarding Gravel and Sand Pit Sales Tax distribution, and said further information
34 would be available in July.

35
36 Potential Property Tax Increase – Mr. Hanson said staff recommended a 2.49% property
37 tax increase in FY 2024 (based on an increased animal control fee). He spoke in favor of small
38 annual property tax increases to avoid falling behind inflation. The Council discussed the
39 possibility. The FY 2024 certified tax rate would be provided by the County in early June.

40
41 Retirement – Mr. Hanson said Councilmember Ince had last year brought up the idea of
42 a 401(k) match for City employees. He said the cost to the General Fund of a 3% 401(k) match
43 (based on salary) with 50% participation would be \$72,000. The Council discussed retirement
44 benefits currently provided for employees, and the idea of adding a 401(k) match. Councilmember
45 Ince said he believed a 401(k) match was a common benefit that could help with retention and
46 recruitment. Councilmember Hirst posed the question that if the objective was to retain
47 employees, was a 401(k) match really what the employees would want. Mr. Hanson suggested
48 further discussion at a future meeting.

49
50 Parks and Cemetery Maintenance – Mr. Hanson said the City had been using funds from
51 the Transportation Fund for sidewalk and curb repair in parks and the City Cemetery. He
52 expressed a desire to better understand the true cost of the maintenance and evaluate if enough
53 was being done.

1 Mr. Hanson gave an update on the current sidewalk repair/tree removal project with tree
2 vouchers, and expressed a desire for the Tree Board to conduct some kind of satisfaction survey
3 among property owners affected.
4

5 Youth Scholarships – At a previous budget meeting, the Council discussed the possibility
6 of offering scholarships for youth participation in Youth Council and recreation programs. Mayor
7 Wilkinson spoke in favor of youth being involved in earning funds for participation, and said he
8 believed the City should keep participation fees reasonable. Mr. Cox suggested youth who
9 qualified for the free school lunch program be eligible for significantly reduced participation fees
10 with the City. Mr. Hanson said he agreed with the philosophy of keeping participation fees as low
11 as possible. The Council and staff discussed the desire to be inclusive of youth who would not be
12 able to participate in City recreation programs without financial help, and the possibility of
13 providing an opportunity for residents to voluntarily contribute to help fund those youth.
14

15 **ADJOURNMENT**
16

17 At 8:24 p.m., Councilmember Ince **moved** to adjourn. Councilmember Summerhays
18 seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (5-0).
19

20
21 Jennifer Robison
22 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder
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5-2-2023
Date Approved

