

**ST. GEORGE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WORK MEETING/NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE  
MAY 13, 2021 3:00 P.M.  
FIRE STATION #6/2450 EAST PARK**

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor Michele Randall  
Councilmember Jimmie Hughes  
Councilmember Bryan Smethurst – arrived at approximately 3:30  
Councilmember Gregg McArthur  
Councilmember Dannielle Larkin  
Councilmember Vardell Curtis  
City Manager Adam Lenhard  
City Attorney Shawn Guzman  
City Recorder Christina Fernandez**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Several staff members from various departments**

**OPENING:**

Mayor Randall called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The invocation was offered by Reverend Alex Wilkie and The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mayor Randall.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET:**

City Manager Adam Lenhard explained staff approached this budget as fiscally conservative as possible. This is a catch-up year, meaning a number of the projects cut out of the current year's budget are proposed in the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget. He outlined the proposed changes to the City's organization chart included in the preliminary budget.

Budget and Financial Planning Manager Deanna Brklacich provided a handout and outlined the City Manager recommended new personnel and promotion requests. After being asked by Councilmember Curtis, Ms. Brklacich explained that the City's cost for healthcare benefits for employees has increased 4% and 5.1%, depending on the type of plan after which she explained the types of plans the City offers. She stated that the total budget is approximately \$415 million, up by approximately \$110 million, a 36% increase from last year. The main reason for the increase is due to the following: projects that were put on hold due to Covid are now being funded; \$2 million for the purchase of additional cemetery property (site to be determined); \$16 million in ARP Covid money; \$12 million for the Wastewater Treatment Plan facility; \$11 million in capital works project funds; \$1.25 million for the facility services building; and \$1.3 million for the clubhouse at St. George Golf.

City Manager Adam Lenhard noted a few years ago, there were some citizens who were vocal regarding the budget. Ms. Brklacich met with these residents and outlined the budget, staff has not heard from them since.

Councilmember Hughes pointed out that those that have complained and compared the City's budget with other municipalities, they do not realize that St. George offers more services than other cities the same size.

City Manager Adam Lenhard noted when comparing taxes, St. George's are fairly low compared to other cities similar in size.

Ms. Brklacich spoke about sales tax; things are going well. The hope is that the trend continues.

Fire Chief Robert Stoker outlined the proposed budget for the Fire Department including personnel, equipment needs, bids for Station 9, and additional PPE for fire personnel.

Police Chief Kyle Whitehead outlined the proposed budget for the Police Department including capital outlays and equipment needs, personnel, and taser replacements. He then spoke about the request for a community services officer to respond to citizens walking into the office and additional full-time evidence and property employee. With regards to training of officers, he believes there are additional needs as he does not feel the training has been to the level he would like.

Mayor Randall asked for a list of training that has been approved and taken out of the requested budget. She stated that she would like to limit officers responding to minor thefts. Instead, she would like to see those types of calls be handled differently so that it does not take an officer away from patrol or more serious calls.

Chief Whitehead explained they have an online reporting system; but it needs improvements.

Water Services Director Scott Taylor outlined the proposed budgets for Water Distribution, Water Services Administration, Irrigation, Wastewater Collections, and Wastewater Treatment Plant including projects, secondary irrigation, culinary water projects, proposed pass increases, personnel, and Phase 2 expansion of the treatment plant.

Mayor Randall called for a five-minute recess.

Administrative Services Director Trevor Coombs outlined the proposed Administrative Services budget including personnel, workload, update on 311 service, and technology.

Support Services Director Marc Mortensen noted Golf revenues are up approximately \$1.2 million. He provided a handout and outlined the proposed increase to fees for the Golf Division as well as the improvements and expenses the proposed increase will help fund. He spoke about why they do not charge resident versus non-resident fees. He then outlined the proposed budgets for Technology Services, and Facilities Maintenance including cyber security, personnel, projects, and equipment needs. He provided updates on the Facilities Maintenance building, SunBowl improvements, and the demolition of the St. George Inn.

City Attorney Shawn Guzman outlined the proposed budget for the Legal Department including personnel.

The Mayor and Council moved to the 2450 East Park for the remainder of the meeting.

**NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE:**

The Mayor, City Council and several staff members held a neighborhood open house to conduct general discussions with residents.

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Christina Fernandez, City Recorder