

# BUDGET COMMITTEE

## Minutes - Final



Travis Lindley, Chair/Council Member  
Tim Gould, Mayor Pro Tem  
Lewis Wheaton, Council Member

Smyrna Community Center  
Oak Room  
200 Village Green Cir  
Smyrna, GA 30080

City Attorney Scott Cochran  
City Administrator Joseph Bennett  
City Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

**April 17, 2023**  
**5:00 PM**

### 1. Roll Call

**Present:** 3 – Chairperson / Councilmember Travis Lindley, Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould, and Councilmember Lewis Wheaton

**Also Present:** 3 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Charles Welch, and Councilmember Susan Wilkinson

**Staff:** 3 – Joe Bennett, Landon O'Neal, and Kristin Robinson

### 2. Call to Order

Chairperson Travis Lindley called to order the April 17, 2023 Special Committee on Budget held at the Smyrna Community Center in the Oak Room at 5:06 PM.

### 3. Chairperson Instruction and Comment

### 4. Formal Business

#### A. **2023-090** FY2024 Budget Discussion

Landon O'Neal, Budget officer, presented the following:

#### **New Personnel**

- 1 new part-time position
  - Program Assistant for Environmental Services
  - \$19K impact for FY24 budget
- 8 new FT **NOT recommended**
  - \$479K annual impact

#### **Reclassifications**

- 9 reclassifications recommended
  - Chief Building Official to Asst. Community Development Director
  - Fire Division Chief (Fire Marshall) to Deputy Fire Chief
  - Parks Maintenance Supervisor grade adjustment
  - Sanitation Truck Driver to Equipment Operator III (2 employees)

- 4 reclasses for Water Department associated with reorganization
- \$25K budget/annual impact

#### General Fund Overview

- Total: \$62,088,000
- Increase of 3.8% over FY23 revised budget (\$2.3M)
- Increases to General Fund:
  - \$1.98M increase for salaries/FICA
  - \$819K total for merit raises and COLA (150% increase over FY23)
    - Did not budget for COLA in FY23 (\$529K budget in FY24)
  - \$400K for unallocated contingency
  - \$32.17M for property tax revenue (13% increase)
  - \$1.12M for lawn maintenance and landscaping (\$366K increase from FY23)
  - \$274K for Munis (\$119K increase from FY23)
  - \$475K for Police body cameras (\$263K increase from FY23)
- Notable General Fund Expenditures
  - \$1.5M to vehicle replacement fund
  - \$5.75M for debt payments
    - \$3.2M for 2005 Series Parks Bonds
    - \$1.8M for 2021 Series Bonds
    - \$794K for 2016 Series Smyrna Grove Bonds
  - \$554K to supplement E-911 Fund
  - \$5.6M for health insurance
  - \$2.3M for retirement contribution
  - \$987K for other insurance (property liability insurance, cyber insurance, Georgia Firefighter's Cancer Benefit Program, etc.)

#### General Fund CIP

- \$2,115,000 total expenditures (15 projects)
  - Green Energy Initiatives for \$800K, Library Bathroom Remodel for \$300K, Playground Repairs and Maintenance for \$150K, Paint City-Owned Buildings for \$150K, Bridge Repairs and Maintenance for \$150K
- Funding
  - \$1,315,000 from ARPA funds
    - \$168K for E-911 furniture replacement project
  - \$800K from transfer out of General Fund
- FY25 projects: \$4.4M
- FY26 projects: \$3M

#### Hotel/Motel Fund

- Expenditures: \$2,263,679
- Revenues: \$2,263,679
  - \$178K increase in budget due to higher collections and increased payments to Cobb Galleria and GF Transfer
  - \$1.6M budgeted for Hotel/Motel Tax (\$143K increase from FY23)
  - \$435K budgeted use of reserves, final amount depends on collections

#### Vehicle Replacement

- Expenditures: \$1,557,000

- 9 vehicles
- Revenues: \$1,718,000
  - Combination of 30-year annual average contribution from GF and W/S fund and emergency funds
  - \$150K to emergency replacement fund and increase to average contribution
- Putting money in fund balance for FY26 and FY27 with more expensive vehicles on schedule

**Water/Sewer Fund**

- Expenditures: \$20,731,593
  - \$2M transfer out to GF
  - \$4.1M for W/S CIP projects
  - \$11.18M wholesale water purchase
  - 7.9% increase from FY23 revised budget
- Revenues: \$21,446,850
  - 3.2% increase from FY23
- \$715K to cash reserves

**Other Notable**

- Changes to fee schedule

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**A. MIN2023-037 Approval of the November 21, 2022 Special Committee on Budget Meeting Minutes**

**Aye:** 3 – Chairperson Lindley, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, and Councilmember Wheaton

**Nay:** 0 – None

**Recuse:** 0 – None

**6. Other Business / Staff Comment**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, stated that conversations with other cities and the necessity to keep Smyrna's jail operational have taken place. Discussion took place that encompassed how Smyrna can stop losing money on the jail and increase jail staff salaries. It was mentioned that if other cities need Smyrna's jail to remain open, they need to provide more funding.

**7. Adjournment**

Chairperson Travis Lindley adjourned the April 17, 2023 Special Committee on Budget at 5:56 PM.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for convenience of persons with disabilities.

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THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN O.C.G.A. 50-14-3:  
The City of Smyrna website – [www.smyrnaga.gov](http://www.smyrnaga.gov)  
City Hall, 2800 King Street SE, Notice Boards