

# **SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

**TOWN OF CHASE CITY, VA**

**Thursday, May 02, 2024 at 11:00 AM**

525 North Main Street, Chase City VA 23924

Phone: (434) 372-5136 | [www.chasecity.org](http://www.chasecity.org)

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## **MINUTES**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alden Fahringer at 11:05 a.m.

#### **PRESENT**

Town Manager Dusty Forbes

Mayor Alden Fahringer

Vice-Mayor James Bohannon

Council Member Marshall Whitaker

Council Member Brenda Hatcher

Council Member Pauline Keeton

Council Member Michelle Wilson

Council Member Latrisha McCargo

### **Urgent Meeting Items**

Town Council will meet to discuss the proposed budget for the 24-25 fiscal year.

Treasurer Virginia Walker went over the highlights for the upcoming budget. Item #2 There are no increases to water, sewer escrow, rural development wastewater project or garbage rates. There is an increase to the sewer rate. She went on to point out that there have been a lot of sewer issues that have needed repair and sewer rates need to increase to cover those costs. They are proposed to increase from \$19.90 to \$24.90. It would be a \$5.00 increase on the water bills for residents.

She pointed out that health insurance for employees has increased this year by 7.85% but we have been lucky because we did not have an increase last year. It was pointed out by Town Manager Forbes that the town is trying to cover some of the family coverage costs for the police officers. The State and other agencies are covering 100% of it so we need to offer some sort of incentive to keep our officers. Council Member Whitaker asked how many officers we have now and if we were hiring anymore any time soon. Town Manager Forbes answered we have 8 full time officers and two part time officers. He went on to say we would be hiring another soon. A grant the town was awarded will help offset the cost of one officer's salary for the next three years.

Item #7 regarding equipment replacement was questioned by Vice-Mayor Bohannon, asking for an explanation of what a "road plate" is. Public Works Director Long explained it goes over holes that need to be dug in the roadway for repairs to make sure the road can still be used while its being repaired.

Council Member Whitaker questioned what the library donation does. Town Manager Forbes explained it's an annual donation the town gives. It is required to participate and have a library.

Mayor Fahringer asked the group if we could give firefighters and first responders a tax break on personal property. Treasurer Walker said no there was not a way of doing that. Council Member Whitaker said he was on board for that but he did not see a way of doing that. Treasurer Walker pointed out that the county does give them a \$25 credit from the county.

Council Member Whitaker questioned if we can look at our streets and find money to improve them. He went on to say he felt our streets are in terrible shape. Town Manager Forbes said the town use to spend roughly \$50000.00 on street repairs yearly and now they spend \$110000.00 yearly, so the Town is trying to make the streets better but the cost of everything has went up so much.

Treasurer Walker pointed out that the Lee Building is a prime place that we could see and increase tax revenue without increasing taxes for the residents. That money could be used for repairs like the street issues. Currently there are no proposed increases to tax rates, licenses or fees. Town Manager Forbes pointed out that we need to look forward if we want to keep this town alive. We need apartments and housing developments that can help bring tax money and revenue to the town to make those needed repairs.

The group discussed raising the water rates for out-of-town contractors who purchase water from Chase City. Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to raise the bulk water rate for the out-of-town contractors from \$35.33 for the first 3000 gallons to \$100 for the first 3000 gallons and \$.03 per gallon after that. It was seconded by Council Member McCargo.

Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

Council Members discussed the prices of the cemetery plot rates.

Motion made by Council Member Keeton to raise the cemetery burial plot rate from \$750.00 to \$800.00. It was seconded by Council Member Wilson.

Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

Council Members discussed the rates we are currently charging for in town rock delivery. Motion made by Council Member Wilson to increase the gravel purchase/delivery rates from \$90.00 to \$100.00. It was seconded by Council Member Hatcher.

Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

Council Members discussed the prices currently being charged for reconnection fees when water is turned off for non-payment. Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to raise the reconnection fee for water services from \$50.00 to \$75.00. It was seconded by Council Member Wilson.

Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

Council Members discussed the cost and fines associated with the town cutting the grass of residents. Town Manager Forbes explained that the town sends a warning letter to residents if their grass gets too high. If they do not cut it or allow it to get too high again in the same year the town cuts it for a fee. Currently the town charges \$150.00 for the first cutting and \$50 additionally for any additional cuttings during the year.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to raise the new price for grass cutting to \$200 for the first offense then proceed as we normally do with the rate of increase. It was seconded by Council Member Whitaker.

Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

Voting Nay: Council Member Keeton

Town Manager Forbes suggested we increase the rates for the pavilion rental since we now offer the bathrooms. He said he has called around and we are way under prices for the going rates. Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to increase the rental for the pavilion from \$150.00 to \$400.00 with \$100.00 of that being a deposit that will be returned after the property is inspected and deemed clean and undamaged. It was seconded by Council Member Hatcher.

Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

Council Members discussed the current rate of sewer clean outs which is \$90.00.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to raise the sewer clean out rates to \$125.00. It was seconded by Council Member Whitaker.

Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

Council Member Keeton told the group they need to discuss the Lee Building. It is continuing to cost the town money every month. She suggested getting it out there and soliciting bids for purchase. She pointed out selling it could help raise revenue for the town. Council Member Wilson agreed it needs to be sold. Town Manager Forbes said he had spoken with a developer named Michael Hurt and was waiting for his proposal. Mayor Fahringer suggested he be given 30 days to get the proposal in to the town. Fahringer also said Mr. Hurt needs to include in his proposal a start date and completion date.

Treasurer Walker asked the group if they had any further question or comments? She also asked if they need any changes made. No one spoke.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

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**Alden Fahringer, Mayor**

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**Stacey Pafford, Clerk of  
Council**