

**MINUTES OF
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, May 27, 2014
W. Elmer George Municipal Hall
100 South Hill Street
9:00 A.M.

Those present: Chairperson Ryan McLemore Commissioners Joanne Todd, Cora Flowers, Cynthia Reid Ward, Doug Hollberg, Dick Morrow, Rodney McCord, City Attorney Drew Whalen, and City Manager Kenny Smith.

Those absent: None.

Chairman Ryan McLemore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Review Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015 Budget Summary

City Manager Kenny Smith gave an overview of some areas of importance that effect the proposed \$109 million budget, which includes:

- A proposed .5 Mill Tax Decrease
- The Carl Vinson IOG Classification and Compensation Study
Mr. Smith said this year we are proposing to implement the CVIOG compensation and classification study that we funded over the last 2 years. That process identified some insufficiencies in our pay and classification system. We have compensated for those insufficiencies and are proposing a pay and classification system that should last another 10 years, if kept up to date. There were two options to choose from; Option A – 2% above the means, and Option B – at the means. We have chosen option B with a “slight” modification, which is a small increase in the starting pay of Police Officers (about 4%). Other than the recommended changes, there are no “across the board” increases proposed.
- Code Enforcement / Substandard Structure Elimination
- Continued decline in projected property tax values; about \$260,000 (1/2 Mill)
- Continued decline in LOST values (\$100,000)
- Decline in Electric transfer
Expenses are up approximately 2.6%, mainly due to wholesale power.
- Solid Waste income transfer
Solid Waste saw revenue increase due to sort line and contracting yard waste.
- Water / sewer analysis and upgrades – evaluations necessary due to age.
- Overall Revenues EXCEED Expenditures by \$4,848,838
- General Fund Expenditures EXCEED Revenues by \$8,563,309 (\$8,427,318 FY13-14)
- Total General Fund Revenue up (w/o transfers) \$12,479
- Motor Vehicle Tax up \$425,000 with TAVT
- Including Capital expenditures and debt service, we will need to transfer \$411,811 in order to fund the Golf Course, compared to \$388,786 last year.
- Health insurance did not increase because the changes we made to the plan two years ago are working in our favor.
- Dental insurance increased slightly but the City will absorb this cost. There will be no insurance increases for employees.

- Only one personnel change - Archivist position from part-time to full-time. (The City will fund the entire department and bill Spalding County for ½ the total expense, which they have agreed to do.)

Total Budget – All Funds

Projected Revenues up \$4,225,748 (from 13-14 projections)

Projected Expenses up \$3,767,818 (from 13-14 projections)

(These projections include SPLOST, CDBG, CHIP, NSP, TIP, TADs)

Mr. Smith stated we have a balanced budget addressing most of our goals, including a tax decrease for our citizens without decrease in our service. A copy of the 669-page budget is available for public inspection at City Hall during business hours. *(See PowerPoint Presentation attachment)*

Update on Utility Service Partners, Inc. performance since Spring 2013 program with the National League of Cities. The campaign began last spring and to date 239 people have enrolled in the water line warranty, 164 customers enrolled in the sewer line warranty, with a total 14 claims to date. Residents have paid about \$34,000 for into the warranty program. The National League of Cities qualifies plumbers to participate in the program and then choose from this group to perform the repairs. To date, there have been no complaints regarding this program. Commissioner Rodney McCord asked if this arrangement would open it up for other businesses to come in to make money by using the “City” logo. Mr. McCord does not think this is proper and feels that we need to notify the citizens that we are not allowing people to use the City to advertise their business as if this is a product/service of the City of Griffin. The program itself is not an issue, it is the advertising method that Mr. McCord feels is improper. Commissioner Dick Morrow suggested adding this to the next agenda for discussion. There were no objections.

There being no further business, the regular morning workshop adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenny Smith, Secretary

Accepted:

Ryan McLemore, Chairman