

**Stoneville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
2024 Annual Budget Retreat
March 9, 2024, 9:00AM
Council Chambers at 101 Smith St.**

Special Meeting: Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Councilmen Henry Thornton, Johnny Farmer, Curtis Bennett, and Lee Shelton. Also present were Town Administrator Perry Webster, Finance Officer Shannon Tucker, Town Clerk Deleia Hutcherson, Fire Chief Joel Freeman, Police Chief Franklin Moore, Public Works Director Byron Curry, Parks and Recreation Director Dillon Brown, and Town Attorney Eugene Russell.

Welcome: Mayor Galvan welcomed the assembly and called the meeting to order after the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation at 9:00am

Agenda: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2024, Agenda. Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

Departmental Budget Requests for 2024/2025 – Fire Chief Freeman, Police Chief Moore, Public Works Director Byron Curry, and Parks and Recreation Director Dillon Brown presented their wants and needs for the upcoming budget year. Copies incorporated into minutes.

Fire Department – Chief Freeman requested increased pay rates for the positions of part-time firefighters and Fire Chief to be competitive with other fire departments in the area. He also requested increases in the budget for equipment and vehicle maintenance. There was also discussion about vehicle replacements. The fire chief stated most vehicles are in good shape but would probably need to start looking at replacing one of the fire trucks within the next couple of years.

Police Department - Chief Moore requested increased pay rates for full and part-time positions to be able to attract new officers and base the pay rate on experience and certifications. He stated this will allow us to be competitive with agencies within the county. He also asked for budget increases for the following line items: equipment, professional services, training, vehicle maintenance and supplies and shelter fees related to animal control. He stated they need to think about creating positions for an Evidence Custodian and Investigator in the near future. A new Dodge Durango is being requested in this year's budget so there will be enough vehicles and a spare for when they are fully staffed.

Public Works Department – Public Works Director Byron Curry requested budget increases for the following line items: (Public Works) uniforms, vehicle maintenance, training to maintain state certifications, computer/software, and office supplies. (Wastewater) travel for training and equipment for safety purposes. He stated he would be looking at grants to upgrade safety equipment. He also requested the Council's consideration for one big ticket item which is a

knuckle boom crane and truck. He stated this equipment would streamline various jobs such as brush, trash, and bulk item pick-up and reduce the time it currently takes with their existing equipment.

Parks & Recreation Department – Parks and Recreation Director Dillon Brown discussed his wish list items and advised many of them are not attainable in the upcoming budget year but wanted to include for future consideration. His items included: infield dirt, replacement of the playground slide, new dugouts, a batting cage, storage building, and a retaining wall beside the concession stand to reduce creek overflows and flooding in this area. He is okay with the current budget but would like to move some line items around and focus on the active programs and the park that is being used for baseball, softball, and T-ball programs. Dillon stated the target items for the upcoming budget year would be the storage building, roofs on the dugouts, floors for the dugouts, and a replacement slide for the playground.

There was back and forth discussion between the Council and Department Heads after each presentation.

Finance Officer Shannon Tucker advised the department heads that she needed copies of any grants and contracts for her files as auditors request this information annually. Councilman Farmer also advised any grants should be brought before the Council for approval before anyone moves forward with applying for grants.

Councilman Farmer asked to discuss the bids for the weather siren provided by the Fire Chief. Chief Freeman advised he spoke with the top two companies and received answers to the questions asked at the last Council meeting. Based on his discussions and the information received, he is recommending we move forward with Sentry Siren at a cost of \$24,915.47. Councilman Farmer made a motion to award the siren bid to Sentry Siren for \$24,915.47 and pay for the siren using the \$22,000 left over from the generator grants and the remaining \$2,000 - \$3,000 to be paid out of the current budget or ARP funds. Seconded by Councilman Thornton. Motion carried. Copy incorporated into minutes. Chief Freeman was advised to notify Sentry Siren and let them know the installation has to be completed by 5/30/24, to comply with purchase deadlines for the current year budget as well as deadlines for use of the grant funds.

Mayor Galvan gave her closing remarks and reminded everyone of the next budget work session scheduled for April 16, 2024, at 6:00pm.

Mayor Galvan advised the Council would be going into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel. Councilman Thornton made the motion to go into closed session. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of closed session made by Councilman Bennett. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan stated we are now in open session.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Bennett. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 12:30pm.



Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan



Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

