



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

Council Chambers, 715 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

HON. MARY KATHERINE GREENLAW, MAYOR
HON. WILLIAM C. WITHERS, JR., VICE -MAYOR, WARD TWO
HON. KERRY P. DEVINE, AT-LARGE
HON. MATTHEW J. KELLY, AT-LARGE
HON. JASON N. GRAHAM, WARD ONE
HON. DR. TIMOTHY P. DUFFY, WARD THREE
HON. CHARLIE L. FRYE, JR., WARD FOUR

April 16, 2019

The Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, held a public hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

City Council Present. Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Vice-Mayor William C. Withers, Jr., Council members Kerry P. Devine, Dr. Timothy P. Duffy (via phone-medical), Charlie L. Frye, Jr., Jason N. Graham and Matthew J. Kelly.

Also Present. City Manager Timothy J. Baroody, Assistant City Manager Mark Whitley, Assistant City Manager Doug Fawcett, Assistant City Manager Doug Fawcett, City Attorney Kathleen Dooley, Budget Manager Deidre Jett, Director of Community Planning & Building Services Charles Johnston and Clerk of Council Tonya B. Lacey.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Council was led in prayer by Councilor Matthew J. Kelly followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw.

Notice of Public Hearings (D19-185 thru D19-187). The Clerk read the notice of the public hearings as they appeared in the local newspaper, the purpose being to solicit citizen input.

Disclosures. Councilor Duffy disclosed that he was employed by the Fredericksburg School System but he could participate fairly and objectively in the decision.

Councilor Frye disclosed that his spouse was employed by the Fredericksburg School System and he could participate fairly and objectively in the decision.

Fiscal Year 2018 Recommended Operating and Capital Budget (D19-185 thru D19-186). 16 speakers. Budget Manager Jett presented a PowerPoint presentation and she noted that the budget public hearing would cover the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Budget and Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), property tax rate, water and sewer rates, refuse collection rates, planning fees and data center rates. The FY 2020 recommended budget is \$100,435,000, 4.6% over the FY 2019 budget. The proposed budget included three new positions: Commonwealth Attorney, fire and public works, a 2.5% cost of living adjustment, increases for schools, library, jail, Children Services Act (CSA) and debt service. It was also recommended to increase the real estate taxes by \$0.04, increase refuse collection fees, increase in new data center personal property tax rate, and increases in the Planning and Building fees. Ms. Jett explained that the City Manager recommended a \$0.04 tax increase but the Council set an advertised rate of \$0.86. She also presented two slides provided by the consultants regarding water and sewer rates and their recommendation for the next five years. Ms. Jett also explained the fee increase for the refuse collection. She said the increase was needed to offset an increase in tipping fees. There will also be an additional fee of \$22.50 for those who require a second 65 gallon container. She also discussed the planning fee adjustments the major change being the new fee table for Land Disturbance Permit fees. The final fee changes were to the Data Center tax rate. The current rate is \$3.40 per \$100 valuation and the proposed is \$1.25 per \$100 valuation. This proposed change is for regional competitiveness.

LaBravia Jenkins, Commonwealth Attorney, thanked the staff for the recommendation of the additional Commonwealth Attorney position. She added that the

Governor signed a bill that requires localities to hire additional Attorney's if the local officers wore body cameras. She explained how the camera require more attention and care because they have to redact information before they can share with others.

Katerina Vollten, Director of Development for Legal Aid Works. Legal Aid has served the City since 1973 and she thanked the Council for their continued support. Ms. Vollten said they were asking for level funding. She said they had four full-time attorneys and one part-time attorney covering five counties and fifteen courts. She said they represent low-income people who need an attorney in civil legal matters. Ms. Vollten said they are the only agency providing this services. In the last fiscal year, 141 City residents were assisted by their attorneys.

Theresa Bowers, Director of the Seniors Visitor Program at Mental Health of Fredericksburg. Ms. Bowers thanked the Council for their past support and for the level funding recommendation for this year. The program serves senior citizens most of whom still live in their own homes, many are homebound and have medical, physical or visual issues and some become clinically depressed because of their disconnection with the community. This program provides a trained volunteer who makes a free, weekly, in home visit, for socialization and support services that promote independence and health for older adults. Currently, they service 114 senior clients in Planning District 16 and about 29 percent are Fredericksburg residents. Ms. Bowers said the cost is about \$622 per senior per year.

Juanita Shanks, President and CEO of FailSafe Era, which is a 501C3 nonprofit organization that was established to assist inmates, the formally incarcerated (returning citizens) and family memebtrs that have been affected by incarceration. Ms. Shanks asked the Coucnil to approve their request for funding. She noted that this was the first time in their

ten year history asking for funding. The program has been funded by Board member dues, fund raisers and donations but the need for their services have increased. She stated that according to the Virginia Department of Corrections ninety-four percent of inmates will be released back into the community and their services are available to help them become successful and productive members in the community. Ms. Shanks discussed the many trainings and programs the inmates will have available to them through this program.

Melanie Johnson, Fredericksburg Area Museum Development and Marketing Officer, 907 Princess Anne Street, Ms. Johnson thanked the Council for their support and she said it was recognized by their volunteers, members and community partners. She said the museum had gone through a transition over the last four years. She said the museum was fully up and running again. Ms. Johnson said the museum had three goals last year: Create a museum that focused on stories and not just objects, create a museum that belongs to the community beyond their four walls and create an experience for visitors to remember the history, celebrate the arts and embrace the future. She said they were not only reaching their goals but they were on track to surpass their goals. FAM has worked with over 20 agencies to engage new audiences and create programs that are timely and meaningful to the City such as Hen Asem. Ms. Johnson said they have developed off site exhibitions, had programs like sounds of summer that brought 11,000 people to the City. Ms. Johnson thanked the Council and said without the support of the Council none of this would be possible.

Elizabeth Borst, Virginia Community Food Connections, said they are a non-profit agency that connects low-income residents with available locally grown foods. She said their goal was to increase food security, to improve health and to support local agriculture. Ms. Borst said they offer the SNAP match at the farmer's market which provides \$30 of fresh

food to struggling families and it also allows farmer's to earn federal income which otherwise would not be available to them. She said their goal was to make healthy produce affordable. Ms. Borst said they had worked with GWRC for many years.

Linda Milsaps, Executive Director George Washington Regional Commission, thanked the Council for the continued financial support and the support as an organization. She said they have been able to help with Continuum of Care. She said they have been able to do environmental work, GWRC ride connect program it takes 12,300 work trips off the road each year, they host the GO Virginia program, new initiative Good Jobs Now and they are home to FAMPO the transportation organization. She thanked the City for their initiative on affordable housing and she said the Board agreed to do it on a regional basis and they will be applying to the state for \$100,000 grant to move this forward.

Sarah Chiles, Fredericksburg SPCA, she spoke of their new program called PETS (People Empowered Through Support). She said many pets end up homeless because their families cannot afford them and through the PETS program they try to help cover supplies for the pets. This year alone they were able to service 1,200 to help keep them in their homes. She thanked the Council for their support which allowed them to be able to do these programs. She said they have been able to offer a new Community Medical Center which is a low cost affordable solution for pets. She said they will be opening a cat café at Spotsylvania Town Center.

Katheryn Palmer, Rappahannock United Way, said RUW was many things, they are a fundraiser, grant maker but mostly they develop collaborations with other businesses, non-profits and local governments that help individuals and families achieve their potential through education, financial stability and healthy living. Ms. Palmer thanked the Council for the recommendation to receive \$3,000. She said these funds would go towards three

different services at RUW: tax preparation and financial coaching, charity tracker and volunteer opportunities. She said the funding also helps to leverage funding. Ms. Palmer also thanked the Council for past participation in workplace campaigns.

Caitie Finlayson (D19-187), 1105 Great Oaks Lane, expressed her appreciation for the City's willingness to reconsider the issue of school capacity and to get another estimate of the future enrollments from the Weldon Cooper Center. She said where the City goes from here would not only determine the City's school children for years to come but also the attractiveness of the City. She urged the Council to pause plans to expand Lafayette Upper Elementary. She encourage the Council to raise the taxes by a penny to give teachers and support staff a five percent pay raise and she asked the Council to increase the waiver limits for the elderly.

Jen Woollven, 129 Princess Anne Street, requested the City Council to increase the taxes by an additional penny to increase the school budget by \$400,000 to ensure the teachers receive a five percent raise. She said it was crucial to keep teachers' pay competitive so the City doesn't lose these valuable teachers. She also thanked the Council for listening to the community.

Michelle Hedrick, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters Greater Fredericksburg, thanked the Council for its past support. She spoke about the program and how they match up youth with a mentor who will support them and help them to make positive life choices. She asked the council to support them by letting members of their ward know that they were in need of mentors.

John Davis, Vice-President for Administration at Germanna Community College, thanked the City for the support it has provided for the college over the years. He said things were moving aggressively forward at the college. He said they were embarking on a

new building at the Locust Grove campus “Allied Health Center”. He said this would help the need for health providers in the area. He said although VCCS pays for the construction of the building they do not pay for any enhancements beyond five feet of the building and those enhancements would have to come from private or locality contributions. He said they were asking all eight jurisdictions to contribute.

Debby Fulton, disAbility Resource Center, spoke about how responsive the City is to the needs of the disabled. She thanked the Council for their past support of the disAbility Resource Center and she asked that they consider their new request.

Anne Little, 726 William Street, thanked the Council for all of their hard work on the budget and for listening and responding to the citizens. She encourage the Council to dedicate one penny to give the teachers a five percent pay increase. She also urge the Council to consider increasing the real estate waiver fee.

Holly Clarke, 1504 Winchester Street, also came to thank the Council she spoke about how great the canal looked after the clean-up. She said the things the City does to improve the quality of life make it a place people want to live. She also spoke in support of the tax increase and said as a rental property owner she does not pass on the cost to her renters she happily pays her part.

Adjourned. There being no more speakers to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Greenlaw declared the hearing officially adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Mayor

Tonya B. Lacey, Clerk of Council, CMC

[This page intentionally left blank.]