

ADJOURNED MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
May 8, 2012

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in an adjourned session on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Mayor Elbert L. "Whit" Whitley presided and the following Councilmembers were present, to wit: Troy E. Alexander, Martha Sue Hall, Judy Holcomb, Ronnie Michael, Dexter Townsend and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, Jack F. Neel. Also present: City Manager Raymond I. Allen, Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris, City Clerk E. Paulette Bowers, Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe, Program LIFT Program Manager Darryl Bego.

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The City Council held a Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Work Session.

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Mayor Whitley called the meeting to order.

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The City Manager stated that Council will continue discussion from Monday, May 7 regular session meeting on fees and charges for afterschool programs using the E.E. Waddell Center. Council received a copy of an email from Just Us Kids, LIFT program information and budget, EE Waddell Center expenditures for 2010-2011 fiscal year. He stated that Mr. Darryl Bego with the LIFT Afterschool Academy is presently using the Waddell Center and is present to speak about their fiscal year budget requested by City Council. The Just Us Kids program presently being held at the Waddell Center did not have a representative present but Council received an email from the Director of the program Ms. Rhonda Vinson.

Ms. Vinson with Just for Kids stated in her email that after reviewing the information requested and speaking with her financial

advisor, she would not be able to provide the Council with a copy of Just Us Kids budget. Their program is in agreement to pay \$500 per year for the use of the EEWCC.

Mr. Bego, Program Manager with the LIFT program at the EEWCC handed out information about the LIFT program and their budget information for the 2012-2013 FY and stated that their budget includes costs for salaries of five part time staff members, food and supplies, transportation, etc. to make the program possible. Upon questioning, Mr. Bego stated that their program is fully funded by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council of NC (JCPC). This program's efforts are to keep juvenile offenders from re-offending. Mr. Bego continued by explaining the purpose of the program and that they meet Monday-Thursday from 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the EE Waddell Center. He stated that their budget is stretched to its limits. This program provides a healthy snack and provides youth incentives and summer employment along with transportation daily from school to the EE Waddell Center and then home in the afternoon. He also noted that the students go on exploration trips to places such as Atlanta and Savannah Georgia. He stated that the LIFT program has already served 54 kids since July 1, 2011.

Mr. Thorpe stated that the current use policy was applied in renting to Just Us Kids and LIFT, which involved no fee when using the facility during normal operational hours unless food preparation or other special accommodations are necessary. Council discussed the current policy for the EE Waddell Center vs. the Community Room policy at City Hall. They determined that it may be time to review and maybe update the EE Waddell Center policy.

Mr. Bego and City Council continued in discussion of resources such as a smart board, projection system, and wiring installation that the LIFT program installed at the EE Waddell Center to use in their program with a value of at least \$3,500.

City Council asked Mr. Thorpe if there would be any maintenance type jobs that some of the LIFT students could participate in at the EE Waddell Center to provide an in-kind contribution. Mr. Thorpe stated that they could participate in inside and outside cleaning chores, landscaping, planting, lining of athletic fields, etc.

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Mr. Bego left the meeting at this time.  
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City Council continued discussions with Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe.

Councilmember Hall moved that City Council request from the Just Us Kids program a copy of their current budget and most recent audit for Just Us Kids, and a copy of the letter of designation for Just Us Kids non-profit status within 15 days. Councilmember Michael seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Hall, Holcomb, Michael. Voting against the motion were Alexander, Townsend, and Underwood. With this being a tie vote, Mayor Whitley voted for this request breaking the tie. The motion carried.

Councilmember Alexander stated that instead of the above motion, he would like for Mr. Thorpe to explain to Ms. Vinson and handle this with their organization and Council not request the above budget information.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Michael, and unanimously carried, the City Council added that Just Us Kids also provide a copy of their 501(c)(3) to the original request.

Councilmember Townsend asked that if Ms. Vinson with the Just Us Kids program cannot provide the information requested within 7-10 days to Council, that Mr. Thorpe make Ms. Vinson aware that at the end of this school year, the program will not continue at the EE Waddell Center.

Mr. Thorpe stated that within the next couple of Council meetings he will bring a recommended usage policy draft for the EE Waddell Center for Council to review.  
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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe working with Mr. Bego with the LIFT program in determining the value of contributions that will be made by the LIFT students in maintenance duties at the EE Waddell Center and the LIFT program supplying the smart board, the wiring installation, and the projection system at the EE Waddell Center.

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Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe left the meeting at this time.

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The City Manager stated that ElectriCities Annual Conference is August 9-11, 2012 at Myrtle Beach, SC this year. He handed out information of the draft program to Council.

The City Manager stated that Council had requested information about travel expense money allocation for Council for FY 2012-2013. He stated that \$7,000 has been allocated for Council and Administration for the travel expense in the Electric Fund. With hotel accommodations, registration, meals, and transportation, it will cost around \$1100-1300 per member to attend. There is sufficient monies allocated for 5 members to attend

Mayor Whitley and Councilmember Underwood affirmed their attendance. The City Manager asked that anyone considering attendance, to please let him know in the next couple of weeks.

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The City Manager stated that upon request of City Council, he is supplying a list of frozen positions by department proposed for FY 2012-2013 budget. He answered any questions that Council had.

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The City Manager distributed a list of the highlights in the proposed Fiscal Year 2012/2013 City of Albemarle Budget. He indicated that he would review these items, but could address any questions the Mayor or the City Council may have concerning the overall budget proposal.

The City Manager reviewed the proposed general fund revenues. He did state there is no proposed increase in property taxes for the ninth consecutive year. The assessed valuation is \$999,500 which is up \$1,500,000 from this year's valuation of \$998,000. The City Manager noted the City's second largest source of revenue in the General Fund is sales tax and Finance Director Colleen Conroy states a positive trend. The total increase in sales tax over current budget year estimated at \$113,900. He is not proposing to increase business license fees, no increase in development fees and once again no proposed appropriation from General Fund Fund Balance.

Also no increase in residential solid waste collection fee and will remain at \$9.75 per month and no increase in household monthly disposal fee and will remain at \$3.90 per month. The budget does include an increase of \$1.00 per ton for municipal solid waste and construction and demolition waste at the landfill facility and does estimate revenues of \$96,000 in ABC revenues. The budget also has decreased transfers in the Solid Waste Fund.

The City Manager stated that the proposal does include \$12,500 being budgeted for economic development activities in the General fund with \$ 12,500 also budgeted in the Water and Sewer fund and \$25,000 in the Electric Fund for a total of \$50,000. He noted these funds could be used for the Economic Development Task Force proposed by City Council. The City Manager also noted that 40% of the debt payments for the City Hall are budgeted in Administration in the General Fund.

It was noted that funds for an electronic filing system in Finance was budgeted.

An investment of \$116,000 was appropriated in the Information Systems Department to fund desktop virtualization software cost and upgrade of MS Exchange email system is being shared across City funds.

The City Manager did not have any comments about Human Resource.

The City Manager said the Director of Engineering Service position will remain frozen to help address budget issues. It will be re-evaluated at a later date.

The Police Department portion of the budget does include unfreezing two frozen positions along with a transfer of the elementary school SRO to the patrol division. It also includes funds to pay police officers for during lunch, but reduce shift time by 15 minutes with a net addition of 15 minutes per shift pay. There is an allocation of \$10,000 in additional overtime to support safe neighborhoods initiative. The Police budget does include funding for three new vehicles and \$5,000 budgeted for services the City will use at the Butterfly House. The Police Department also continues to budget for its share of the debt on the renovations at the East and North Community Policing Offices.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Michael, and unanimously carried, the City Council excused Councilmember Hall from the meeting at this time.

The City's Fire Department also has three positions to remain frozen, but will be investigating the possibility of finding federal funds to assist with employee hiring. Additional overtime funds to ensure compliance with FLSA, \$114,000 increase in lease/purchase account due to installment purchase of two new fire engines to be delivered in June. The Fire Department also continues to budget for its share of the debt on the renovations at the East and North Community Policing Offices.

The City Manager did not have any comments about the Central Warehouse or Central Garage.

In the Department of Public Works, the City Manager noted he has allocated out the salaries of the employees of the Warehouse and Maintenance Shop to the various City funds because the services they provide are a benefit to all, not just the General Fund. An allocation of \$23,000 for asphalt resurfacing and \$25,000 from the Powell Bill will increase resurfacing this year by \$50,000. Also allocation for the replacement of a 24-yr old front end loader with a used unit. Continued lease purchase payments for street sweeper. The Public Works Administrative Division will have two frozen positions. Also, the transfer of \$25,000 to Electric Fund for partial offset for the street lighting system. The City Manager did report that he is recommending an increase of \$1.00 per ton for municipal solid waste and construction and demolition waste to offset increased debt service cost for the recently completed landfill expansion, and to address increased regulatory costs. A reduction of approximately \$200,000 due to lower Waste Management rates from \$1,159,000 to \$950,000.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, May 15 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall for a budget work session.