

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORK SESSION
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021 at 9:30 A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29138

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Strawbridge called the Budget Work Session to order at 9:30 A.M.

Present were: Chairman Jerry Strawbridge
Vice-Chairman Justin Anderson
Councilman Jack Atkinson
Councilman Frank Daniel
Councilman Carey Bedenbaugh

Also present were: County Director, Sandra G. Padgett
Clerk to Council, Regina Turner

B. INVOCATION

Councilman Atkinson delivered the invocation.

C. PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is noted by the Clerk herein, that in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the budget work session was given to the local news media and properly posted, to include the county website.

Due to COVID-19, the following notice was placed at the beginning of the agenda:

Please note the council meetings are open to the public, but seating will be limited for social distancing in response to COVID-19. Temporarily we were unable to live stream the meeting but a recording was made for upload to the web site.

D. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Fire Service

Josh Morton, Emergency Management Director and Luke Downing, Fire Service Coordinator, presented the Fire Service Budget. Josh made council aware that the total expense for physicals are included in the Fire Service Budget including EMS physicals. Josh explained the reserve accounts for equipment and Old Town Fire station and Luke spoke about searching and applying for grants to help with the expenses.

Emergency Management

Josh Morton, Emergency Management Director reviewed the department budget with Council and also spoke about how the LEMP grant works with his budget. There was also discussion on radio and tower changes for Sheriff's and Roads & Bridges departments.

Information Technology

Josh Morton, Emergency Management Director reviewed the department budget with Council and discussed where we are with the department now and the reconfiguration of equipment. It was recommended that the management of the IT department be supervised under Emergency Management and the only position open will be the Analyst. Council will review this budget again as changes are being made based on what is priority for the coming year.

Lunch Break recess until 1:00

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff, Josh Price reviewed the department's budget with Council and explained some of the current memberships and contracts. Sheriff's department will be working with Emergency Management regarding the radios. The request for some of the weapons and ammunition was addressed in our current year budget. The Sheriff also asked for an employee to be cut from the Detention Center (Due to the population being low) and Dispatch and to use those funds to hire an additional position at the Sheriff's office. Request was made for a truck that EMS is currently using to be returned to the Sheriff's office.

Josh also stated that the School District was going to pay the full salary of one of the SRO's this coming year.

Council also discussed new Jail facilities.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court, Sheri Coleman and Sheriff Josh Price spoke about the request for a Courthouse Security/COVID Enforcement officer. Ms. Coleman reviewed the Clerk of Court and Family Court budgets and explained the court cost and bailiffs.

Coroner

Coroner, Keith Turner presented the budget for his office and discussed the increase in deaths. The Coroner described the process of why autopsies are performed.

Library

Heath Ward, Librarian, reviewed his budget with Council and discussed the percentages of the States requirement to fund the State Aid account. Mr. Ward updated Council and talked about grant funding for the new future Library facility.

E. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilman Anderson it was unanimously approved to adjourn the budget work session at 3:05 P.M.

Regina H. Turner
Clerk to Council

Raymond G. Strawbridge
Chairman

Date Approved