



REPORT
CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL FINANCE, AUDIT, BUDGET COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 – 10:00 AM
VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Council Committee Members: Chair Councilmember McGee and Councilmember Caldwell
Absent: Mayor Pennington

Executive Staff: City Manager Moore, City Clerk Skipper, Finance Director Caulder, and Economic Dev Dir. Munoz

PURSUANT TO CITY OF HARTSVILLE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 4407 DURING THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC, THE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE, AUDIT, BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 10:00AM WILL BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY AND WILL BE LIVE STREAMED TO THE PUBLIC ON YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyZJVNHT8NtgJrqplYpde4w>. FOR ASSISTANCE, CALL 843-917-0602.

PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021 AND DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE AND ON HARTSVILLESC.GOV.

Chair McGee called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

DISCUSSIONS:

UPDATE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

City Manager Moore informed the Committee that he has met with Spectrum and we will go to fiber for almost all of our buildings with Spectrum. This will increase speed and will be a closed network for security reasons. Met with VC3 and we are moving from VOA to MOA environment which should save from \$50,000 to \$70,000 per year, which we can supply to other areas.

We are also looking to change most phones from desktops to VOIP.

If SC Cares Act is extended we could look at a onetime up front expenses for working from home.

LEGAL COST:

City Manager Moore explained that we spend a significant amount on legal fees and we will be able to discuss in executive session with the full council after the Council Personnel Committee has reviewed contracts for City Attorney. City Council is only over City Attorney, City Judges, and City Manager contracts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

City Manager Moore expressed that the FY 2021-2022 budget will now include marketing for the city.

McGee expressed his opinion that Main Street should be a priority in order to strengthen our downtown businesses.

Moore explained that Main Street and Economic Development are closely related and go hand-in-hand. However, Main Street is a specific area and Economic Development is more far reaching. It's more of total business development. We will be marketing for different types and would like Council to explore more incentives for smaller businesses and areas such as Sixth Street and Fourth Street entryways since Economic Development is such a broad area.

McGee expressed that he likes the term Business Development as to Economic Development since Economic Development is more industry related.

Moore: We will make a big deal out of launching #itshartsville coupled with our 130th anniversary all year long.

McGee asked how do we start "our story".

Moore: explained that it started with our strategic planning session and we need to meet again with Council to adopt our story (strategic plan). We need to meet in February to continue discussion in order to finalize the plan so it can be adopted in March or April.

Caldwell asked about legal realm Council can discuss to explore incentives.

Moore: Right now it is dollar thresholds which we can look at lowering or re-branding a current license to trigger incentives. Right now current threshold in \$1 million.

McGee: With this new administration, we are looking at good stuff and moving forward.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET SCHEDULE:

McGee asked if a pool of money for budgeting had been mentioned.

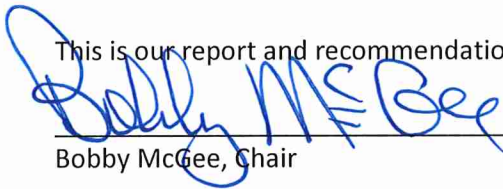
Moore: It was mentioned and it's not a good idea. We still need to follow our same process of looking at the needs of the city and what is best way to budget and spend money in the best interest of the citizens. At first glance revenues are better than expected. So far we haven't had to cut services or jobs. The A-tax has suffered. Our budget process will be open and transparent.

Chair McGee stated that it is good to move forward and was good to talk.

CLOSE MEETING- CHAIR:

Chair McGee closed the meeting at 11:00am.

This is our report and recommendations to the full Council.



Bobby McGee, Chair

2/12/2021

Date