

BADIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET RETREAT

April 24-25, 2024

BADIN TOWN HALL

Council Members Present:

Gary Lowder, Mayor
Demar Huntley, Mayor Pro Tem
Deloris Chambers
Dale Ward
Charles Council

Staff Present:

Jay Almond, Town Manager
Amanda Bowers, Town Clerk
Stephen Smith, Police Chief
Terry Eudy, Public Works Director

Opening prayer by Councilmember Deloris Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Mayor Lowder called the budget retreat to order.

Motion to recess for 20 minutes to address active tree cutting on Willow Street: Ward

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Mayor Lowder called the meeting back to order.

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE AGENDA

None.

MANAGER'S BUDGET LETTER

Almond presented manager's budget letter and budget process for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The proposed budget is balanced as presented, includes 12 police patrol radios, property maintenance leaf management equipment, park utility installation, staff compensation, Powell Bill street projects, and operational expenses. A 2% property tax increase is included in the budget to cover projected operating expenses.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET

- Almond presented current budget.

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION

Almond gave presentation for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed budget.

Town Staff

- Administration: 2 full-time employees.
- Public Works: 3 full-time, 1 seasonal part-time.
- Public Safety: 5 full-time, vacant part-time officers.

Fund Balance

- Badin's fund balance for FY 2023 was approximately \$918,999 excluding grant funds.

Tax Data

- Badin's base value estimate for FY 2024 is \$65.5 million.

- Badin's tax rate is \$.4475.
- Badin's Sales & Use tax is close to 60% of municipal revenue as of FY 2024.

Business:

- Almond presented council a balanced Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget proposal.
- Proposed budget estimates \$300,000 Revenue from Property Taxes.
- Sales & Use Tax estimates \$680,000.
- Total revenues for GF are expected to be \$1,160,395 and Powell Bill \$110,850.
- ARPA grant budget \$451,500.
- State grants:
 - Waterfront Park grant budget \$1,005,816.
 - Badin Conference Center grant budget \$251,524.
- Appropriated fund balance: \$110,845 budgeted.

Expenditures

- \$40,877 budgeted for Parks and Rec.
- \$561,990 budgeted for Public Safety.
- \$303,490 budgeted for Public Works.
- \$263,070 budgeted for Administration.
- \$54,020 budgeted for Powell Bill.
- \$451,500 budgeted for ARPA grant.
- \$1,005,816 budgeted for Waterfront Park State grant.
- \$251,524 budgeted for Badin Conference Center State grant.
- Proposed budget includes 3% COLA increase for full-time employees.

Mayor Lowder called for a 15 minute recess.

Motion to take a 15 minute recess: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Mayor Lowder called the meeting back to order.

Proposed Appropriated Fund Balance Expenditures

- \$9,129 budgeted for Admin – Flooring throughout the Town Hall
- \$70,000 budgeted for BPD – Radios
- \$7,770 budgeted for Library Building Repairs (donation)
- \$16,177 budgeted for West Badin Park Bathroom Install
- \$10,000 budgeted for Public Works 2 backpack blowers and 1 front of mower blower

Revenues

- Revenues: property tax, sales & use tax, utility franchise tax, sales tax reimbursement, gas tax reimbursement, federal excise tax, occupancy tax, alcohol tax, and solid waste disposal.

Grants: \$2.32 million total

- \$451,500 American Rescue Plan (ARPA) – Equipment, Storm Water Management
- \$1,005,816 State Capital & Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) – Waterfront Park
- \$251,524 State Directed Grant – Badin Conference Center
- \$8,088 Stanly County Parks Matching Grant – West Badin Park Utilities
- \$500,000 Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)
- \$110,850 Powell Bill – Street, Sidewalk, Infrastructure

Powell Bill Project Recommendations

- Street patching
- Sidewalk repairs
- Spruce Street ditch floor

Powell Bill projects will be discussed further prior to budget adoption. Powell Bill balance is currently \$118,613 and is expected to be \$179,915 by January 2025 (*less any expenditures prior to January*).

DISCUSSION

Lowder said town hall flooring has been estimated at \$15,091.25 for LVP flooring or \$9,129 for carpet squares.

Motion to use KS Flooring carpet squares: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Discussion: Chambers asked what color they would be. Consensus is a dark color.

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Town Council made adjustments to some line items in the proposed budget.

Almond said ARPA funded salaries and benefits in Police and Public Works departments, while general fund money set aside will fund police radios and storm water work. Lowder said funds moved into the general fund may be harder to track. Funds for police need to be in general fund. Council consensus is for storm water funds to be in a separate account. Almond will verify best practices with auditor.

Motion to adjourn for lunch: Ward

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Lowder called the meeting back to order. Reminder that Chambers will have to leave around 1 p.m.

Council discussed replacing speed bump on Pine Street that was removed for water/sewer repairs. County left the road uneven. Castleberry may be able to patch the spot while he's here to replace the speed bump.

Council adjusted more line items. Lowder suggested raising code enforcement anticipating a possible new hire. They may be able to work part-time doing code enforcement for the police department.

Chambers left around 1:30 p.m.

Ward wants to repair two alley potholes, one off Nantahala and one at Spruce between Willow and Cedar streets, from alley maintenance.

Eudy shared estimates for two mower-mounted leaf blowers and two backpack blowers. Town Council and staff discussed blowers. Council said buy them now and cut from the proposed budget.

Motion to purchase \$12,000 ride-on mower and two backpack blowers from the current budget: Lowder

Second: Ward

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Motion to take a 10 minute recess: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Lowder called the meeting back to order.

Lowder requested adding \$12,000 to Powell Bill budget for tree removal/sidewalk repairs.

Chief Smith requested \$70,000 for six mobile radios and six portable radios. The current radios will be discontinued in 2025 and they won't work with the new Viper system. The quote is for the most affordable radios that will work with the system. Smith is looking for grants to cover other needs in the department. Council consensus is to keep \$70,000 for radios in the proposed budget.

Operating expenses have increased causing consideration for increased taxes in FY25 by \$.02. Council discussed a tax increase but decided to cut line items further to avoid increasing taxes.

Motion to recess until 9 a.m., April 25, 2024: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Town Council recessed April 24, 2024 budget retreat, to reconvene April 25, 2024.

Town Council reconvened from April 25, 2024 budget retreat.

Council discussed police patrol magnets. Ward wants decals. Lowder and Huntley disagree. Council discussed officers at the school. Almond noted the discussion was moving away from budget. C. Council suggested tabling it. Lowder reminded council Ward suggested funding decals for the police truck. Huntley opposed it. C. Council said they've been using magnets. Chambers recalled her comment in a previous meeting to leave it to the Chief to decide. C. Council said cutting expenses to balance the budget was a time to leave it alone. Council consensus was to not fund decals.

Council continued cutting funds from the budget until it appeared to balance without increasing taxes.

Almond said under current circumstances, he recommended a 3% COLA and no merit increase.

Motion to fund 3% COLA increase and no merit: Chambers

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Ward requested a copy of the asset lists. C. Council will look into auctioneers for surplus sales.

ADJOURNMENT:

Lowder called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Minutes approved May 14, 2024

Minutes Prepared by: Amanda Bowers

(SEAL)