

**MINUTES
 EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
 CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
 BUDGET WORK SESSION
 June 7, 2011**

Note to Reader: Although the printed agenda document for this City Council meeting is not part of these minutes, the agenda document provides background information on the items discussed by City Council during the meeting. A copy of the agenda document for this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk.

The following City Council members were present:

- Councilman F. Woodrow Harris
- Councilman James C. Saunders (*Arrival 7:00 pm*)
- Councilwoman Doris T. White
- Councilwoman Beverly White
- Councilwoman L. Dale Temple
- Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey

Others present: Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
 Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
 Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
 Sheila Cutrell, Finance Director

Absent: Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
 Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon

Mr. Thrower opened the session by stating that the following budget adjustment were made By the City Administration:

General Fund

Revenues

Courthouse Security Fee – Increase based on current data.....	\$5,000
Waste Collect – Increase fees by ½ proposed amounts.....	-\$73,200
Miscellaneous – Increase based on current data.....	\$1,000
Total.....	-\$67,200

Expenditures

City Council – Reduce funding for computer replacement.....	-\$2,100
City Manager – Eliminate Compensation & Classification Study.....	-\$11,000
City Manager – Increase Professional Services line.....	\$2,500
City Manager – Increase Advertising line.....	\$1,000
City Manger – Decrease Employee Appreciation line.....	-\$2,500
Police – Decrease Line of Duty Act to reflect VML rates.....	-\$882
Police – Eliminate Joint E911 Center Study.....	-\$12,500
Fire – Increase Line of Duty Act to reflect VML rates.....	\$892
Facilities Management – Eliminate Library upgrades.....	-\$6,000
Facilities Management – Reduce EGRA Park Sign.....	-\$4,000

Shared services – Decrease Circuit Court line.....	-\$1,076
Shared service – Increase Building and Ground line.....	\$248
Shared service – Decrease Circuit Court Clerk line.....	-\$729
Shared service – Increase Commonwealth Attorney line.....	\$13,123
Shared service – Decrease Greenville Co. Sheriff line.....	-\$2,116
Sheriff – Decrease Line of Duty Act to reflect VML rates.....	-\$102
Street Maintenance – Eliminate snow plow & salt/sand spreader.....	-\$27,500
Health & Social Services – Increase Line of Duty Act for Rescue Squad to reflect VML rates.....	\$925
Community Development – Increase Demolition and Removal.....	\$8,500
Community Development – Increase Property Acquisition.....	\$30,000
Economic Development – Add funds for consultant fees.....	\$3,500
Economic Development – Add funds for per capita commitment Fees.....	\$6,000
Arts and Culture – Increase line item for Peanut Festival.....	\$150
Civic & Community Organizations – Eliminate funding for Village View.....	-\$3,800
Civic & Community Organizations – Reduce Funding for Chamber of Commerce to amount of annual dues.....	-\$6,975
Civic & Community Organizations – Eliminate funding for American Red Cross.....	-\$1,140
Civic & Community Organizations – Reduce debt service for sanitation trucks to 4 months of payments.....	-\$56,536
Non-Departmental – Reduce operating/capital reserve.....	-\$16,494
Non-Departmental – Change 2% COLA to 2% bonus.....	\$21,412
Total.....	-\$67,200

Changes to the FY12 budget:

**Utility Fund
Revenues**

Expenditures

Non-Departmental – Reduce Operating/Capital Reserve.....	-\$5,125
Non-Departmental – Change 2% COLA to @% bonus.....	\$5,125

City Council reviewed the proposed budget and requested that the following adjustments be made:

- Commonwealth Attorney: Reduce funding to \$31,347.00
- Non-Departmental: Increase capital reserve by \$22,690.00

Emporia/Greenville Chamber of Commerce

Lavern Jolly stated that she was here on the behalf of the Emporia/Greenville Chamber of Commerce and would first like to thank the City of Emporia for all of its economic support throughout the years. She also stated that with the City’s help, The Chamber has been able to assist local businesses through providing marketing and networking opportunities, programs for the communities’ employees, educational opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs, and access to local and state wide politicians. He further stated that the Chamber has provided support to the community at large by its support of the Crime Line, Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration, CARES program, and supporting other local organizations.

Mrs. Jolly stated that the Chamber's main focus is promoting businesses located within Emporia/Greenville. She also stated that the Chamber currently provides the following avenues for that function:

- Networking: Ribbon Cuttings, Business After Hours, Monthly Luncheons, and Annual Beef Feed.
- Business Recognition & Support: Annual Banquet, Professional Women's Luncheon (provides economical alternative for employers to recognize their professional women).
- Political Awareness: Non partisan debates, forums for politicians or government representatives to meet with business owners through monthly luncheons or special events such as plant tours.
- Education: Provides forum for New Visions, New Ventures to educate new entrepreneurs on how to start a new business.

Mrs. Jolly stated that the Chamber also promotes businesses to potential customers visiting the area through the following methods:

- Welcome Center Marketing: Rack cards at the NC/VA Visitors Center, and in Fredericksburg and Hopewell.
- Emporia/Greenville information for visitors: Maps of the community including a walking tour brochure and information on other historical sites.
- De facto Welcome Center: The chamber receives over 1,200 calls per year requesting rental information, hotel and meal accommodations, building contractors, parking areas, where to purchase tickets for events such as the Pork Festival, and information on other activities such as the Peanut Festival.

Mrs. Jolly stated that while the Chamber focuses on promoting businesses, that the Chamber is also active in community development and support in the following areas:

- Crime Line:
- CARES Program
- Fourth of July Festivities

Mrs. Jolly stated that future service:

- New Interactive Web Site (\$9,500)
- Promotion of Historical and Civil War Trails
- Explore promoting local celebrities
- Live displays

Mrs. Jolly stated that the Chamber understands that the economic times of not only Southside Virginia but the entire nation are difficult and that our local leaders have hard decisions to make. She also stated that the Chamber has examined its budget and if funding is cut significantly, the following programs would be examined in addition to obvious cuts such as compensation levels and benefits:

- Fireworks Display and Fourth of July Celebration – This event would either have to be cut in its entirety or curtailed significantly.
- Cares Program

- Crime Line Reward Funding – The Chamber would have to cease funding the reward money from its operations and either cease participation or explore other avenues of funding if available.

Mrs. Jolly stated that the Chamber wishes to thank the Council for its consideration of their funding. She also stated again, Chamber would like to thank the City for its support past, present, and future. She further stated that the Chambers appreciates the difficulty of this process on the Council Members and, regardless of the outcome of this Budget cycle, the Chamber look forward to working with Council to promote a brighter future for our locality.

City Council stated to restore the funding for the Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$6,975.00.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be presented before City Council members, the budget work session was adjourned.

James C. Saunders, President of Council

Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk