

City of Lake City Council

Work Session Minutes

November 2nd, 2023

Attendees: Mayor Dodson, Mayor Pro-Tem Kyles, Councilmember Hoover, Councilmember Craven, Community Services Director Eddie Robinson, Police Chief Tony Whitmire, Finance Director Tonya Tripp, City Manager Chris Leighty.

Work Session: 10:00 AM

New Business:

The Mayor and Council met with the city manager and the department heads to discuss the new proposals for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. The Mayor and Council approved the following items to be included in the FY 2024 Budget. To increase pay for two part-time employees to Grade 7, increase the pay for Brandy Hicks and Felecia Styles due to increased job responsibilities and training. The Mayor and Council approved paying employees that had unused vacation for up to forty hours. This money will be paid in the first pay period of the next fiscal year beginning in 2023. The Mayor and Council agreed to have \$10,000.00 placed in the Police Budget for overtime. The Mayor and Council approved funding the increment for all employees who qualify. They also, approved for the city manager to continue to investigate the change in pension from the current structure to a Rule of 75 pension for Sworn Personnel and a Rule of 80 for all other city employees. The city manager has requested an actuarial study from the Georgia Municipal Association. The Mayor and Council approved paying for the ten percent increase in employee healthcare coverage. The Mayor and Council were presented two insurance options and chose to stay with the Georgia Municipal Insurance rather than the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Insurance plan which would have saved the city money this year but could possibly change and be more costly in future years. IN addition, the Chamber plan would have negatively impacted the prescription medicine benefit of the city employees significantly. A motion to approve the GMA Plan was made by Councilmember Hoover seconded by Councilmember Craven and approved unanimously. A proposal by the city manager to implement the Civic Plus c-click fix program for community engagement was approved to further discuss. The Mayor and Council asked for a demonstration at the next budget meeting. There will be an increase of ten thousand dollars for License and Maintenance fees for the police department. The police department will replace two older detective vehicles. The department will use monies from the vehicle savings fund. Public Works will implement a street sign upgrade citywide. Funds will come from LMIG grants and SPLOST dollars. The city will replace all gateway welcome signage as well using SPLOST dollars. The public works budget will add an additional five thousand dollars for training in the FY 2024 budget. In addition, funding for \$4,500.00 dollars for barricades will be included in the FY 2024 Public Works Budget. Public Works will purchase a new mower.

The city's new siren warning system was destroyed by Lightening and the city insurance carrier paid to replace it but it may roll over to FY 2024.

Capital Improvements for FY 2024 that were approved by the council are the following.

Nature Park Phase II (CDBG of \$150,000.00) will be used to complete the improvements to the nature preserve.

The city hall park project (SPLOST \$700,000.00 and CDBG FY 2023 \$100,000.00) will be used. Road improvements from FY 2023 (SPLOST \$646,209.09) have not been completed and may carry over into FY 2024.

The Finance Director was asked to prepare the FY 2024 Budget with these items included for the next budget planning session scheduled for December 7th, 2023, at 10:00 AM at City Hall.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council member Craven and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kyles and passed unanimously.

The work session ended at 11:27 AM.

Old Business: NONE