



# Apex Town Council Budget Workshop

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Lance Olive, Mayor  
Nicole L. Dozier, Mayor Pro Tempore  
William S. Jensen, Eugene J. Schulze, Denise C. Wilkie,  
and Wesley M. Moyer, Council Members  
Drew Havens, Town Manager  
David Hughes, Assistant Town Manager  
Shawn Purvis, Assistant Town Manager  
Donna B. Hosch, MMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk  
Laurie L. Hohe, Town Attorney

The Budget Workshop of the Apex Town Council scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. was held in the Third Floor Training Room of Apex Town Hall, 73 Hunter Street

In attendance were Mayor Lance Olive, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole L. Dozier, and Council Members William S. Jensen, Eugene J. Schulze, Denise C. Wilkie, and Wesley M. Moyer

Also in attendance were Town Manager Drew Havens, Assistant Town Manager Shawn Purvis, Town Clerk Donna B. Hosch, Town Attorney Laurie L. Hohe, Finance Director Vance Holloman, Budget and Management Analyst Amanda Grogan, Police Chief John Letteney, Parks and Recreation Director John Brown, Fire Chief Keith McGee, and Human Resources Director Eleanor Green

## **COMMENCEMENT**

---

Mayor Olive called the meeting to order.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

---

### **Discussion 01 - From Council**

#### Wayfinding Signs - Council Member Wilke

Council stated she doesn't know where a lot of things are as she drives around Apex. She wants to see signage for Town Hall, downtown, etc. The Manager stated this is on the work plan for the year coming, looking at a 2019 completion date. Council questioned if we're big enough for a multitude of signages. Staff responded this would be planned, not expanding to neighborhoods, etc.

#### General Fund: Fees vs. Taxes - Council Member Dozier

Council stated she was texted about our electric structure being regressive. The Manager stated citizens will receive notice of the new fees and how they were computed. Council talked briefly about how the

new rates are more balanced and fair. Council will have an opportunity to view the wording before inserts are sent out explaining the new computation.

Public Safety Funding – Council Member Schulze

Council stated he was previously concerned about floating the full amount of the bond. He felt it would be a hard sell to the public in view of the tax increase it would produce. He felt we should be looking at public safety first before parks and recreation.

Council stated she felt we are doing our part as required by State law. Council responded that we are understaffed in public safety and he thought citizens would be upset by our paying more attention to parks than to general public safety.

The Manager distributed a chart which showed the tax increase for various amounts of bond. Council briefly discussed democracy as it applies those being able to afford and not afford a tax increase. The Manager stated that in terms of public safety position requests – nine plus a coordinator in fire – three were proposed in the budget. The goal is to ask for three positions each year until we have full staffing. This is beyond where we have been in the past. Police asked for 16 positions and were awarded six. The Manager explained the breakdown of the unfunded positions and their respective departments. Uniforms, he noted, are on the street. We have to balance these positions with all the other positions that are needed in the town. The Mayor asked if funding were approved for additional positions, would this go to public safety. The Manager stated some would, but there are other positions needed as well.

Council questioned if we could take on more debt without a tax increase. The Manager stated we might could do this somewhere down the line. Council discussed scenarios of if and when taxes would/could be decreased when bond debt is paid off. The Mayor reminded Council for what the current bond would be used.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULZE MADE A MOTION TO RAISE TAXES TO FULLY FUND PUBLIC SAFETY.

The Manager talked about the staffing plan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DOZIER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Council talked about crime figures in town and what is needed to keep crime low. With all of the new housing, the potential for more fires is low. Council did not think the guidelines took these things into consideration. We need to move up positions eventually, but Council thought the way the Manager is doing this is the best way. We can increase positions as time goes along.

Council stated she would support half the positions for a 1.5 cents increase; she agreed with what the Manager is doing. The Manager stated the struggle is staying under nine positions per thousand citizens and still trying to meet town needs. Council felt it is the Manager's responsibility to determine how to allocate funds. Council stated he felt this would be a big jump and he would not be comfortable with it.

COUNCIL MEMBER DOZIER PULLED HER SECOND OF THE MOTION FOR FURTHER THOUGHT ON HER PART.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULZE PULLED HIS MOTION.

Council suggested looking again at EMS at some point in the future.

#### Funding Capital Projects – Council Member Jensen

Council stated he wanted to look at how to bring in some major projects even if that meant a tax raise. But he was not in favor of raising taxes to bring them in. He wants to accelerate as much as we can while still keeping access to the grant. He wanted to take a look at this for next year's budget.

#### Rate of Personnel Growth – Council Member Moyer

Council was concerned about population growth rate vs staff growth rate. Is staff growing larger than the town. The Manager explained the growth rate using charting. He talked about current staffing for fire and our wanting to get four firefighters on every truck.

#### **Discussion 02 - From Public Hearing**

#### Yard Waste Fees to Condos / Townhomes

The Mayor stated this was discussed in the Finance Committee and the Workshop. This scenario is difficult to police, and it could be a logistical challenge. The Manager clarified the difference between apartments, condos, townhomes, and single family homes. He reviewed previous conversations with home owner associations.

Council stated that if you live in a community, you are going to pay some fees that will benefit your neighbor but not you. That's okay. The Mayor stated the current setup is easiest to administer and provides the best result in the end.

CONSENSUS OF COUNCIL WAS TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE.

#### Extended Hours for Summer Camps

The Manager stated he has talked with the Parks and Rec Director, and this will be looked at to be more in line with Cary and other municipalities. Council talked about how economical the current programs

are in Apex. Staff talked about State regulations on running full day camps. We have looked at this before, and we are putting together data to see what it would do to fees and how much it would cost to expand them. Staff talked about recovery of funds via fees.

Staff stated we will take this to the FY18/19 planning schedule and see what we can do to meet the demand that won't take anything away from other programs. Council disagreed with expanding because he felt this would really be a day care situation.

**Discussion 03**

Potential General Obligation Bond

The Mayor stated that Council agreed this would be on the ballot and that the dollar amount needed to be decided. The Manager pointed to the previously distributed memo. He described what each dollar amount -- \$36, \$48, and \$53 million -- would cover. Three Council Members supported the full amount.

The Manager stated we are working on another piece of land; and if the amount is reasonable, this would come before Council to discuss. Staff has been given direction to find out how to finance this using installment debt.

Council stated she favored \$48 and was amazed at how people favored the full amount at the Budget Hearing. Council stated he did not support monies going to recreation when roads and public safety were suffering.

Council talked about the messaging being put forth to the public when Council members conflict on an issue.

MAYOR OLIVE CALLED FOR A MOTION. COUNCIL MEMBER MOYER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A \$53 MILLION BOND; COUNCIL MEMBER JENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION. COUNCIL MEMBERS MOYER, JENSEN, DOZIER, AND WILKIE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE; COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULZE VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE.  
THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-1 VOTE.

Council asked staff to provide them an informational sheet to reference when speaking with citizens in order that objective facts be presented. Council talked about how this will impact her in 20 years, and stated that the increase would not be bad as it would allow her to use senior center activities. Council wished for it to be stressed in distributed information why we need the items which will be covered by the bond.

Council asked could we explore the hotel tax.

**ADJOURNMENT**

---

With there being no further business, Mayor Olive adjourned the meeting.

---

Donna B. Hosch, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

---

Lance Olive  
Mayor

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK