

City Council Minutes
Budget Workshop
July 19, 2022

Orangeburg City Council held a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 9:00 AM with Mayor Michael C. Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Bernard Haire
Jerry Hannah
L. Zimmerman Keitt
Sandra P. Knotts
Richard F. Stroman

ABSENT:

Dr. Kalu Kalu, Mayor Pro Tem

City Administrator Sidney Evering addressed Council. He stated, "As you all are aware, everyone is dealing with inflation including the City. Everything has gone up, fuel especially. The City is feeling the brunt of it in terms of how we continue to provide services that citizens expect and deserve. I ask you to consider this in the decision making for the recommendations we are presenting. One of the major recommendations with this budget is a cost-of-living adjustment of three percent. I have talked with Warren Harley on the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) side, and he is in agreement."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "Three percent cost of living adjustment is great. I am concerned about the employee only making \$25,000 annually compared to the employee making \$90,000 annually. I would suggest a scale so the employees on the lower end receive a higher percentage and the employees at the top end receive a lower rate."

Councilmember Stroman stated, "I agree with three percent. I think we need to look at merit raises for employees that are at the lower range and are doing a good job."

City Administrator Evering stated, "I have asked Human Resources Director, Theresa Williams, to make performance evaluations a priority to be put in place for next year so we can evaluate employees and set aside funds for merit increases when deserved. Council allocated Covid funds to be set aside for certain purposes. One of those was for approximately \$947,000 that could go towards general purposes, and we would like to offer discretionary pay for everyone in the amount of \$1,500 for full-time and \$750 for part-time employees to help ease the burden of gas prices. Absent any objection from you, we are prepared to do this next pay period. This is an allowable use for the ARPA money."

Mayor Butler asked, "Would DPU be doing the same thing?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "Yes. I have spoken to Mr. Harley, and he is prepared to do the same for DPU employees."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "I wanted to give you a summary to help guide you. The budget this year is about \$22,354,969. Under the History tab in your notebook, the first table is a millage table from 1979 to present. The millage we are proposing is 100 mills. We have been holding at 100 mills for some time, but over that period we could have gone up over 11 mills. As you know, millage is now capped by state law."

City Administrator Evering stated, "When you do not raise millage incrementally you lose the ability to capture what you have loss because we are capped by the state. Most local governments and municipalities raise incrementally. We are not recommending a millage increase during this budget. If we do not, then we are losing the ability to keep up with our services and buy equipment. Probably the biggest area is salaries in that we might not be able to compete with some organizations and certainly the private sector. Going forward increasing millage on an incremental basis is something we might want to consider so we do not lose out on some of the millage."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "I have no problem when you say no millage increase this year, but then we must say more than likely we will have an increase next year regardless of what happens."

City Administrator Evering responded, "Yes, I agree. We try to be considerate of the financial picture, but you are right that you can always say there are tough financial times. I want to get the right person in as the Finance Director/Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to complete actual budget planning for three-to-five years down the road."

Mr. Marc Wood added, "There is a way to do a large increase. Your millage increase is based on your Consumer Price Index (CPI), growth, and other factors, but when you do not raise millage for a period of years you can do a look back for three years. To your point, I think the City does need to look at some type of millage increase because your cost of services is not going down. So, if you do not continue to try to control that piece of the revenue you could possibly find yourself trying to decide which services to provide or not provide. I agree with Sidney that your next CFO could do three-to-five-year planning to help navigate by looking at cost of services and amount of revenue."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "Sidney and I have talked about projecting, and we may make the comment we are not raising millage this year, but we are looking at raising it next year. So, we would be planting the seed. We are planning in a way that would keep our revenue stream consistent. On the next page, you will see the DPU transfers for the City operations. If you remember, last year DPU agreed to give a onetime \$1.2 million infusion into the City because of cost of living and a few other things. We have removed that money from the budget. We are using Fund Balance to do this budget so keep in mind that we are not providing a budget that is able to sustain itself. It is tapping into the Fund Balance and typically we have done that over a period of years. Usually, we have not used as much of the balance each year. We are slowly chipping away at it."

City Administrator Evering stated, "This is something that I would like to slow down or eliminate. I am not comfortable with dipping into that Fund Balance. As John pointed out we had an additional \$1.2 million from DPU that we did not request in this budget, so we are \$1.2 million less than we were last year. You might remember that we had budgeted \$1.25 million for the Fire Tax collections in anticipation of having that Fire Tax District agreement in place with the county. That did not happen, and we were having to rely on fire contracts as we have traditionally done, and they have come in at about \$400,000-\$500,000 less than the \$1.2 million we had budgeted. If you add that \$400,000 to the \$1.2 million less that we are getting from DPU, you see we are essentially starting out \$1.6 million less. We will be recommending ways to increase revenue."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "The next page is Cost of Living history from the 1980s into the 3% we are proposing. I want to point out that we did have some years that are higher than what we are proposing. In 1998-1999 there were some 4% increases in Cost of Living, but typically it has been 1% to 3%. We have budgeted approximately \$300,000 for the 3%. The numbers you have are working with an assumed 3% Cost of Living increase. As Mr. Hannah suggested, if we want to look at an aggregate, where 4% for someone under \$35,000 and 3% for others, we can look at the total impact. We need your guidance on that."

City Administrator Evering stated, "We will tag team this summary. The first section is New Positions. We are recommending changing the title from Finance Director to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to attract higher caliber candidates with primarily the same duties, but today it remains Finance Director. The Finance Coordinator is the position that Tricia Phillips held, and we have not filled that position. Then an additional Revenue Collector to help us bring in additional revenue. We are kicking around an idea of a Risk Manager in Human Resources to mitigate some of the risk factors we have been experiencing. That is another expense that is going up in terms of insurance. I wanted to point that out in case I have to come back to you and ask to hire a Risk Manager."

Councilmember Knotts asked, "Could you elaborate a little more on the responsibilities of the Risk Manager?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "This would be a full-time position responsible for safety factors. They would go to the various departments to make sure they are complying with

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. They would also be responsible for a lot of the insurance, worker's compensation, and PEBA. They would help Human Resources manage that on a day-to-day basis. Again, we are exploring this, but I wanted to bring it to your attention."

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued,

Notable Variations to Original Budgeted Amounts

- We have placed Fire Tax District figures of \$1.25 million in 2022-23: We are on a current collection stream of \$470,000 to \$520,000. The address list we were using was five years old. We have corrected that problem, so we are hoping to continue to see growth in collections.
- COVID continues to impact the current and upcoming budget due to enhanced cleaning, which factors into our rental fees and restarts, salary adjustments for COVID pay, and for miscellaneous Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) expenses. We still pay if you are out with COVID which is a good benefit to maintain health in our organization.
- Fund Balance used in 2020-21 was \$478,856. \$854,305 was budgeted. 2021-22 Fund Balance was set at \$1,056,000. Recent trends indicated we should end in \$400,000 - \$600,000 range. The Fund Balance recommended for 2022-23 is \$1.1 million. Currently it is being recommended to allocate \$1,100,000 in Fund Balance in the 2022-23 budget. The bottom line is we are chipping away at the Fund Balance every time we use it.

City Administrator Evering stated, "The best way to increase our tax base is annexation. We have been working with the City Attorney to take a more aggressive stance to annex certain areas. We are not receiving our fair share of revenue. An example is North Road Recreation Complex. We bring in a lot of revenue for that surrounding area, but we do not share in that tax revenue because that area is not in the City limits. Of course, Highway 601 is another area we should be considering for annexation. We hope these things will help eliminate the need to dip into this Fund Balance going forward."

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued with the Notable Variations,

- Tasers were leased in 2021-22 due to end-of-life issues with current equipment. 66 tasers were replaced at a total cost of \$219,000 over 5 years or \$43,987.50 per year. This provides the tasers, docking stations, certification training, and warranty during the lease. This will be amended in the 2021-22 budget.
- The City has had a successful year in grant acquisitions of over \$1.7 million. We have also received our first tranche of ARPA Funds. (\$3.1-\$3.2 million, which we will discuss later in our meeting.)

Additional Cost Savings or Revenue Generation Measures Taken

- We have updated all Fire Contract addresses and mailed a second round of notices. Since the end of June, we have received an additional \$13,000 in new or renewed contracts. After the process is finished, we will look at a third-party collection company to collect additional revenue with 75% return to the City and the third-party company would retain 25%. The other way we collect back revenue is the Setoff Debt program with the municipal association. For example, we can send traffic tickets to Setoff Debt and that allows it to be added to their tax bills.

Councilmember Haire asked, "Those persons in our doughnut for fire contracts do not have a binding agreement making it mandatory to pay. What will this company do since it is not mandatory or law for them to pay the tax?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "Basically, it is just an effort to collect a debt. Technically, a person could say I am not going to pay it, but it is a way to go about collecting the

debt. This is typically an incurred debt in a case where maybe a person has had a fire and they have received a bill for the fire itself not having a contract which is about \$1,000. There is no set way to do that. One thing we have implemented in the new fire contracts mailed out is pointing out the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) ratings and explaining how that can affect their insurance. The collection company only gets paid when they collect a debt. It has worked in the past when the debt collector called companies, they paid."

City Administrator Evering stated, "The Fire Tax District agreement that we discussed previously has been sent to the county for their review. They have had it about two weeks. I will be diligent in making sure they get back to us in a timely fashion, so we do not have a repeat of last year."

Councilmember Haire asked, "We have had several insurance companies get requests from residents who have had a fire and they do not have a contract. Have we been able to do anything to get insurance companies to not pay out insurance unless there is a contract? Are we trying anything like that?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "We have found that our collection efforts of fire contracts have not been as robust as they could be. Everything down to simple things like the fire department collecting insurance information from the individual while at the scene. If the insurance carrier can charge a higher rate to a customer, they are going to do so therefore it is important for us to get that information. If someone did not have a contract, they would have a different ISO rating which could make as much as \$300-\$500 difference per year in a policy. One of the things we need to talk about is how we are tracking that fire and that revenue. We are not connecting the dots which is a process we are working through in finance.

- Weedy Lot invoices are under review. A notice with review of addresses will be done and we will monitor the success of this effort. After a month of this effort, we will look at a third-party collection company to recoup additional revenue. Current accounts receivable is over \$70,000. We found only one invoice is sent on weedy lots. If it did not get to the individual for some reason, we have not followed up. We are working on these processes now to get better collection efforts. Sidney is adamant that he wants to see our revenue be stable and improve our collection efforts.

One thing I wanted to point out. There was an item about a fire hydrant fee of \$5 noted in last year's budget book with a potential revenue generation of \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000, however, it is not an option for DPU and the City. It ended up that the funds collected from that fee would have had to go back into maintenance of the hydrants."

City Administrator Evering stated, "There was a court case that has put an end to fees being used for anything other than what they are supposed to be used for. The fees would have to be used for maintenance and could not go back into the General Fund."

Councilmember Hannah stated, "Parking in front of fire hydrants is a problem all over the City. I know they are not being fined because sometimes it is the same car in the same place."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "We will let DPS know as this is a ticketing offense that needs to be dealt with."

City Administrator Evering stated, "Now we will review 2022-23. We are recommending increasing revenue. I already spoke about the possible Risk Manager. I want to make sure you are aware we recommended a 3% Cost of Living. Councilmember Hannah, we will take your recommendation into consideration about the graduated scale in terms of the lower paid employees perhaps getting a larger Cost of Living increase. The Forensics Lab should be coming online shortly. There will be revenue opportunity with drug and DNA analysis. I asked all Department

H~~eads~~ to figure out ways to increase revenue without having to ask Council for a millage increase. Currently residential sanitation roll cart fees are low at \$14 per month. The private sector generally charges \$30-\$35 per month. We are also extremely low in comparison to other municipalities.

Residential Sanitation

	Current Rate \$14	Proposed Rate \$16	Proposed Rate \$17
Based on 5,345 roll carts	\$897,960	\$1,026,240	\$1,090,380

This additional revenue could be used for salary increases for our CDL drivers. We are currently paying about \$18 per hour while the private sector is paying \$23 per hour. We have other needs in terms of equipment as we need a residential sanitation truck. A new sanitation truck is about \$260,000. This money could help us maintain our level of service. We are not trying to make money, but we are trying to break even and provide those services you would expect. It is our recommendation that you would consider raising that rate \$3 to \$17 which is substantially lower than others in the public or private sectors.”

Councilmember Haire stated, “I recommend \$3.”

Councilmember Stroman stated, “I recommend \$1. Outside people are paying, I think, \$18. I will check today.”

City Administrator Evering stated, “Please check as that is not what our research shows. We are trying to keep up and provide those services. We are asking for a new residential truck in this budget. We need more than one, but we are trying to be incremental. I know Councilmember Stroman said \$1, but I think everyone else has indicated \$3.”

Mayor Butler stated, “I agree, we need a new trash truck and if it will help with salaries, I am for that also.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, “Our residential sanitation is not just roll carts but also yard trash. The individual with a private sanitation company roll cart is only getting their roll cart dumped for a fee of typically \$20 to \$25.”

City Administrator Evering stated, “We had to suspend our recycling because we did not have the staff. According to Public Works Director, Dean Felkel, we are one employee away from being able to restart our recycling program. This increase could pay for that.”

Councilmember Keitt stated, “People who live outside the City must take their garbage off or pay as much as \$35 per month, so a \$3 increase to \$17 is not too much. Things are going up and we as Council must understand some increases are needed to pay for equipment.”

Mr. Wood stated, “Even if you raise it \$3, compared to surrounding areas within an hour of Orangeburg you are still well under what any other municipalities are charging. The City of Camden is \$25 per month, and they are half the size of Orangeburg. I have smaller cities that charge \$25, and they are a tenth of the size of Orangeburg. Unfortunately, to continue to provide services you must have revenue.”

City Administrator Evering stated, “This may be one of those items where you do small incremental increases, so maybe \$3 this year and \$1 next year. If those trucks break down, you have a problem. Our sanitation trucks are in terrible condition.”

Councilmember Stroman stated, “I do not mind going up, but I suggest \$1 per month.”

Councilmember Haire responded, “The majority has expressed the desire to go to \$3.”

City Administrator Evering stated, "Another area that we could increase revenue is on the commercial sanitation side. We are far lower than our competitors in the private sector and even in the public sector. We are recommending a \$3 or \$5 increase to bring in additional revenue. This \$100,000 to \$200,000 could go towards salaries and equipment. You can see how that would change in the chart."

Commercial Sanitation

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate +\$3	Proposed Rate +\$5
2 yds - 79 customers	\$17,392	\$20,237	\$22,132
4 yds - 135 customers	\$66,859	\$71,755	\$75,019
6 yds - 79 customers	\$66,722	\$69,566	\$71,462
8 yds - 141 customers	\$199,799	\$204,875	\$208,259
Total:	\$1,248,732	\$1,392,672	\$1,467,252

City Administrator Evering stated, "I think one Councilmember is recommending \$5. Any other comments?"

Councilmember Keitt stated, "I would recommend \$5."

City Administrator Evering stated, "Okay, so \$5. The next item is cart rentals at Hillcrest. Mr. Grant Davis with our auditing firm pointed out that municipal golf courses do not sustain themselves. We are supplementing Hillcrest. Hillcrest rates are very low as a municipal golf course. We cannot compete with the rates of private courses. Our recommendation is cart rentals increase from \$16 to \$20 which is still very inexpensive. On green fees, we recommend weekdays from \$24 to \$25 or \$26 and weekends from \$28 to \$29 or \$30. Any suggestions?"

Councilmember Hannah stated, "\$30 on the weekend and \$26 on the weekday."

Cart Rentals

	Current Rate \$8	Proposed Rate \$9	Proposed Rate \$10
9 holes - 10,903 players	\$87,224	\$98,127	\$109,030
	Current Rate \$16	Proposed Rate \$17	Proposed Rate \$20
18 holes - 1,400 players	\$22,400	\$23,800	\$28,000
Green Fees*			
	Current Rate \$24	Proposed Rate \$25	Proposed Rate \$26
Weekday - 3,782 players	\$90,768	\$94,550	\$98,332
	Current Rate \$28	Proposed Rate \$29	Proposed Rate \$30
Weekend - 3,161 players	\$88,508	\$91,669	\$94,830

City Administrator Evering stated, "One of the other areas that we can increase revenue is in our Parks and Recreation Department. Small dollar changes can pay for two or three salaries easily. We have not been making as much revenue as we could be making. I have asked Ms. Simmons and Mr. Singh to work together to come up with these similar types of recommendations for Parks & Recreation as far as concessions. We are presenting for the Dixie Youth World Series August 8, 2022. We would be expecting 30,000 people to come to the City for these games in 2024. It would be nice to have these increases in place and be able to collect this additional revenue. This revenue will be for our employees, maintenance, and equipment. We will get those numbers to you for your consideration."

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued,

Notable Expense Items

- We are allocating one park’s playground equipment replacement each year - \$45,000. We asked Parks and Recreation to upgrade some of our playgrounds with mulch and paint. We need new equipment. We do not want our citizens playing on outdated equipment or open ourselves up to any liability for having poor equipment. We are proposing to set aside money each year to update our parks and we will be actively pursuing grant funding.
- We recommend updating maintenance expenses in most departments for basic upgrades as well as departments developing an improvement needs list in 2022-23 - \$150,000. We are trying to be more proactive by implementing a regular maintenance program.
- Address overtime pay that was created due to the payment of compensatory time - \$57,000. Current overtime rates are projected this year to be \$150,000 - \$200,000. We changed our compensatory time policy last year based on the recommendations of our employment attorney and that resulted in an increase in overtime pay.
- Sponsorship Fund of \$35,000. Occasionally we receive requests from Claflin, SCSU, and additional organizations to sponsor certain events. Typically, we try to come up with the money and I wanted to set aside some funds in the budget to meet these requests.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, “We do not have many Capital Assets for Lease Purchase in this budget. One of the reasons is due to the focus we have put on the Cost of Living and the transition in Finance. We are constantly working on numbers in different areas and with the new City Hall, we wanted to take a conservative approach to be sure we have everything aligned. If we make the fees increases, we may be able to increase pay for Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) drivers and add a residential sanitation truck to Capital Lease Purchase. That would mean two residential trucks. Service Department requested a Kubota Tractor and Bush Hog. Information Technology (IT) requested Managed Detection & Response (MDR) software for \$100,000. IT expenses are high, but this goes back to the question in the Council meeting about how we are doing on Cyber Security with the auditor. These are the types of things we must do to meet those needs. We are in our second year of the Enterprise leasing program which allows us to add a truck mid-stream in the case of needing to replace it. We would then amend the budget to reflect it and carry out the lease. The trucks listed below are replacing some that went out on us.”

- Lease Purchase Items

Item	Department	Amount
Residential Sanitation Truck	40/60	\$278,000
Kubota Tractor	90/10	\$25,000
Bush Hog	90/10	\$4,000
Managed Detection & Response (MDR)	15/15	\$100,000

- Vehicles

Item	Department	# of Vehicles
Pickup Truck	70/01	1
SUV	70/20	1
Pickup Truck	185	1

Additional Cost Savings or Revenue Generation Measures Planned

- We have limited our Lease Purchase and Capital Items to do a reset and develop a short- and long-term needs schedule. One advantage of the vehicle lease program is we have the flexibility of adding a vehicle during the year based on need until we have developed a detailed plan.

- We will look at Worker's Compensation insurance. There may be an opportunity to save since our claims have been stable and may shop it next year. I want to remind you that we always look at our health insurance in late October/November.
- We are not looking at a change in our general insurance policy. Due to recent claims, we are looking to review this in two years. We had to go for a higher cost policy regarding cyber insurance and we are hoping with the additional cyber measures we have taken that we will be able to use the Travelers which would be about \$10,000 reduction in premium.

City Administrator Evering stated, "Annexation is something we want to actively look at going forward. There is a lot of potential revenue to be gained from smart annexation. The areas we are looking at are Highway 601 and North Road."

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued,

- Move forward with annexation of North Road and Highway 601 area. The Veteran's Administration (VA) Clinic is open and will have an assessed value as well as at least two other businesses that appear to be coming in. The hospitality and accommodations revenue make this area extremely important with a significant impact on the North Road Recreation Complex.

Mayor Butler asked, "Are we going all the way to the interstate on Highway 601? Are we including the side streets?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "We are going straight up Highway 601 unless you all tell me something different."

Mayor Butler asked, "When we go up the North Road, will that include Walmart?"

City Administrator Evering responded, "We will see what Walmart says. Our ballpark is generating a lot of money in that area. I know there are other developments coming to North Road with more revenue we would be missing out on. I have even spoken to Mr. Young about increasing our hospitality."

Mayor Butler asked, "When we leave the ballpark are we going up the North Road? Many homeowners in that area have expressed interest in coming into the City. I would love to go as far as we could."

City Administrator Evering responded, "I want to get us past the VA Clinic, but it is certainly up to Council as to how far you want to take it."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "Let me remind Council the covenant process did not start quite early enough to catch all these issues. In the residential areas, we need to work with DPU and look at areas that have full services. Sewer is an issue that we will need to look at from a study standpoint for Council to determine areas you want to look at."

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued,

- The Forensics Lab is fully certified. A fee schedule is being developed during this year with hopeful implementation.

Enterprise Funds

- **Airport**
 - Apron expansion will have been completed. The airport is doing well.
- **Hillcrest**
 - A golf cart lease will be extended – Total Cost: \$450,000-\$500,000.
 - It is the recommendation of the City Administrator, management, staff, and interim accounting team to move Hillcrest into the Parks and Recreation Department. From an auditing standpoint, it was recommended to have it under Parks & Recreation. Our audit shows we are losing money from our General Fund to support Hillcrest. We also have some management issues that could be addressed more efficiently by having Hillcrest under Parks and Recreation.

Mayor Butler stated, “We have to get the workers from Parks and Recreation to help them with the lawn care, so I am in total agreement.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, “I wanted to bring one other point about Hillcrest. Most of you will remember we charged off about \$900,000. Moving Hillcrest under the Parks and Recreation Department will mitigate that issue for us in our audit.”

Mr. Wood stated, “Because it is an Enterprise Fund and the General Fund has been subsidizing the operations, it recognizes a receivable. The General Fund has a receivable on its books, an asset from the golf course and the golf course has a payable to the General Fund. Back in 2017, Grant said they wrote off about \$1.2 million of receivable. Right now, the receivable as it stands is about \$850,000. As an auditor you must look at the viability of that asset receivable. Is it collectible or not collectible? Historically, the golf course has not generated enough profit to be able to pay that back. Historically, it has not gotten paid back so then the auditor must decide that this truly is not an asset, and he must write it off. So, we are getting close, my guess is next year we would have another \$900,000 written off again since the golf course could not pay. By putting it under Parks and Recreation, you lose that ‘due to’ and ‘due from’ so basically all you are doing is moving the golf course to the General Fund and it becomes another division under Parks and Recreation. It makes that a little cleaner as you do not have this asset that inflates the assets on the General Fund.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, “The airport will continue to operate like it has in the past either breaking even or \$100,000 difference. Historically, that is how it has operated along with grants we received under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the State. It performs well for a municipal airport.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued,

Hospitality and Accommodations Funds

- Fountain maintenance for \$65,000. We are experimenting with this now by having a company maintain our fountains every week which has worked well. If we have fountains in the City, we need to maintain them and keep them looking good.
- Cameras for Edisto Gardens and Bandwidth for \$50,000. This is in this year’s budget that will carry over into next year.
- Recreation Master Plan for \$125,000. This is something we really need. This goes back to all the ball fields we have, looking at inventory, what we can use, and what areas we do not want to maintain, etc.
- Downtown Façade Grant for \$300,000 (\$250,000 from ARPA and \$50,000 from the City Façade Grant program). We are in the process of setting up Façade Grant guidelines and will be coming back to you in August.

City Administrator Evering stated, “As you recall we have the ARPA Grants for non-profits which will be between \$275,000 and \$300,000. We are receiving applications. We had previously talked

about Council appointing one person from your district to be on the Grant Committee for the awarding of the grants. If you recall, the grants rewards are up to \$50,000. The grant application deadline is August 1st so I will get a memo to you asking for your recommendations. Our attorney is reviewing the non-profit information to make sure they meet the 501(c)(3) requirements, but we need a committee to review the applications to get the awards out in September.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued,

- Improvement to North Road Facility Concession Stand for \$115,000. We have discussed making the kitchen area more robust to be able to accommodate additional concessions, especially as we progress with tournaments.

Mayor Butler asked, “What kind of concession stand is at Mirmow Field?”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, “The concession stand is not in good condition.”

City Administrator Evering, “Mirmow Field needs a lot of work. As you all might know \$400,000 from the Capital Project Sales Tax was allocated for Mirmow Field renovations. We need to determine what those renovations will be and spend that money, but it will not address all the needs of Mirmow Field. At some point, we will need guidance from Council on what you want Mirmow Field to be and what type of money you want spent to bring Mirmow Field back.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, “Mirmow Field is a historic ball field with a storied background that has been here since 1945 or 1950. I think it has a lot of value. We will be taking a trip to Sumter to look at Riley Field which is an old ball field like ours. Riley Field is used by two colleges and Legion ball. Mirmow Field is the only field around that will handle collegiate baseball.”

Councilmember Knotts asked, “In our conversations about Mirmow, will we bring Claflin to the table since they and American Legion use it? I think it is only fair to include them in the conversation.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, “They are in the mix of it now. The fee schedule with Claflin is very reasonable and probably needs to be reviewed. We can also look at fee structures for Sumter’s Riley Field.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued,

- Repave and repair of old Phillips Shoes parking lot for \$8,000. We have a driveway area that is blocked off that needs repairs, but also as we look at development, we need to look at the repaving of that parking lot.

Councilmember Knotts asked, “Is there a mechanic adjacent to that parking lot? I see lots of cars over there.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, “Yes, it is a car repair business. It is a constant problem. We are working with code enforcement again on it. The individual receives a \$400 ticket every month. He pays the \$400 ticket and does not seem to have a problem with it. He has also served jail time for it. So, we may need to look at coming to you all to revoke his business license.”

Councilmember Knotts responded, “If he is doing that consistently, that would be my suggestion.”

City Administrator Evering stated, "That has only recently been brought to my attention. I did not realize what was going on. We have been talking to developers about areas downtown. One of the things they want us to consider is paving that whole area for parking. If they bring a business, they want adequate parking. We cannot pave that area and have that gentleman continue to do that. We must find a way to be more punitive. I will talk to our attorney about what else we can do from a legal standpoint to make him comply. If not, we may have to revoke his business license."

Assistant City Administrator Singh continued,

- Refurbishment of Disabled American Veteran (DAV)-Andrew Dibble area for \$100,000. *ARPA Funds
- Skatepark Construction for \$600,000. There are additional funds coming from other areas. We had over eight different companies participate in our contractor meeting by Zoom.

Now turn to the Tables tab in the back of your book. These are the dollar amounts we have remaining in Penny Sales Tax Funds.

Orangeburg County Penny Sales Tax

Referendum	Original Amount	Amount Spent	Balance
\$1,000,000 Library-City portion of total funding for County owned library in downtown (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
\$1,000,000 Airport Improvements & Upgrades (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	1,000,000.00	60,795.00	939,205.00
\$600,000 Improvements of City Owned Streets Including Pine Top Subdivision (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	600,000.00	684.10	599,315.90
\$400,000 Mirmow Field Improvements (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	400,000.00	-	400,000.00
\$3,000,000 Railroad Corner and Downtown Development to include Infrastructure and Property Acquisition (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	3,000,000.00	1,331,857.71	1,668,142.29
\$1,200,000 Expand City Hall & Stevenson Auditorium Street Realignment and Construction (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	1,200,000.00	52,197.24	1,147,802.76
\$571,949 Edisto Gardens Improvements & Riverfront Development (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	571,949.00	-	571,949.00
\$200,000 North Road Recreational Complex/ Traffic Control (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	200,000.00	-	200,000.00
\$150,000 City Gym Parking (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	150,000.00	-	150,000.00
\$100,000 City Sidewalks (CITY OF ORANGEBURG)	100,000.00	-	100,000.00

City Administrator Evering stated, "There are a couple items that have not been touched. I am sensitive to not having spent some of these funds. It is my take that if the voters say they want the money to be spent we should spend it in accordance with their desires. Mirmow Field is an area that we need to plan ways to spend this money for improvements. Edisto Garden Improvements and Riverfront Development have needs. The Boardwalk is something we need to look at. North Road Recreational Complex/Traffic Control, we spent money to build the sign, but there was anticipation a traffic light would be installed at that intersection. If we get the World Series, we need to work with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to get that done prior to hosting it."

Assistant City Administrator Singh stated, "With the City Gym parking, the original thought process was to purchase the Wicker Mart for additional parking. I do not know if that is something we need to do right now, but we do have a significant need to address the bias wells in the back parking lot that looks like fishponds. They are supposed to drain in a natural way and have vegetation in them, so we have some things we need to do in our back area. We could also look

at parking and making improvements to Mirmow Field parking, possibly repaving it to make additional parking that would also serve the City Gym.”

Mayor Butler asked, “I see Railroad Corner has \$1.6 million left for whatever we need down there as far as acquiring?”

City Administrator Evering responded, “Yes, that can go towards site acquisition or just the project in and of itself.”

Mayor Butler stated, “What is the Pinetop amount of \$599,315.90?”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, “Edisto Surveyors just finished surveying the entire road area and now Johnson, Laschober, and Associates (JLA) is designing plans to mitigate the drainage issues so we can eventually repav. The next step is to mark the location to make the short-term repairs to get some of these areas to where they are a lot smoother. We will spend money to temporarily fix things. Hopefully, some of that can be milled and used again when we look at repaving. We do not feel that we have enough to do the repaving by itself with this amount of money. We will know that number as JLA does their survey.”

Mayor Butler stated, “This area is one way in and out and if that pond overflows, they are not able to get out.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, “The ponds are not part of our problem. The roads are our problem, the flooding and the drainage system that drains the road. The overflow of the pond is part of the neighborhood association’s responsibility and so is the dam. We are making progress. You should see some action coming shortly. On the next page, on ARPA, we have the information at the bottom of the different areas. At the Municipal Association meeting, Sidney will find out when our next tranche is available.”

Mayor Butler asked, “Where the water settled on Bayne Street, were they included in the study?”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, “They were in the study. In our meeting with the Office of Resilience and Kevin Gantt, it was reported a resident there damaged a pipe on their property, and it caused the back up, so the resident must fix the pipe.”

Mayor Butler stated, “Also by the Edisto Gardens, Seaboard Street is another place that holds water.”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, “Yes, we will look at that for resilience.”

City Administrator Evering stated, “We certainly have issues with water pooling and flooding. I have a meeting scheduled with Dalton Tresvant from Congressman Clyburn’s office along with Kevin Gantt on August 15th to continue to discuss some of these flooding issues. They are still working on that study. Hopefully, we can get some types of funding or grants to help address, but it is not the quick fix I would like. I want to make sure that you all reach out to us if you have any questions. Railroad Corner is coming along. We will start interviewing the two developers. The skatepark Request for Proposal (RFP) is out and we are receiving responses. The City Hall Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is out for a contractor. Those responses are due mid-August and hopefully we will get started in October. As far as downtown revitalization, we have some discussions going on. Hopefully, we are close to getting something significant downtown.”

Councilmember Hannah asked, “Is there one place in the budget that shows salaries?”

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "Yes, it is in the budget book by department under expenses or I have a printout that I can give you."

Councilmember Haire asked, "Can you give me an update on the property manager for the buildings we purchased?"

Assistant City Administrator Singh responded, "We are working with The Litchfield Group and the property manager has had Covid, so we are going back and forth. Once we can get them online, we will get that completed."

Mayor Butler stated, "Are there any more questions? Thank you all. Let us continue working hard to move the City forward."

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda McDaniel

Linda McDaniel
City Clerk

