

**CITY OF EASTPORT
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5th, 2019
SHEAD HIGH SCHOOL – BAND ROOM - 6:00 P.M.**

City Council Attendance: Councilor Hailley Bradbury, Councilor Scott Emery, Councilor Jeanne Peacock, Councilor Peter Small, and Council President, Roscoe Archer, III. Also present were City Manager, Ross Argir, and City Clerk, Ella Kowal.

Attendees in the Audience: Catherine Lee, Robert Scott, Michael Morse, Cynthia Morse, Dana Bard, Tari Camick, Pat Christohper, Lora Whelan, Charles Anthony, and Patricia Reilly.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Council President, Roscoe Archer, III, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ADJUSTMENT to AGENDA

MOTION BRADBURY SECOND PEACOCK (PASSED 5-0)

To approve adjusting the agenda to add Item XI for the Scheduling of a Special City Council meeting for June 10th, 2019 to be held at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. to go into Executive Session for Personnel Matters for the purpose of discussion on candidates for the position of Police Chief.

**III. CLARIFICATION to the MOTION made at the 5/8/2019 Council Meeting
(Re: Proceeds from the Sale of the Old City Hall at 78 High Street to Proper Account**

MOTION PEACOCK SECOND BRADBURY (PASSED 5-0)

To clarify the motion made at the 5/8/2019 Council meeting relative to the remaining proceeds from the sale of the old City Hall at 78 High Street that they are to go into the Special Reserve account.

**IV. COUNCIL APPROVAL for a CORRECTIVE DEED Prepared by Legal Counsel
(Re: Sale of 78 High Street)**

The City Manager updates the Council that the buyer's attorney had caught an error in the deed that had been prepared and after it had been signed. Our Legal Counsel is going to make the correction and it requires a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign off on the corrective deed.

MOTION BRADBURY SECOND EMERY (PASSED 5-0)

To authorize the City Manager, Ross Argir, to sign off on a corrective deed prepared by the City's Legal Counsel with regard to the sale of old City Hall at 78 High Street.

**V. COUNCIL APPROVAL for DIGGING & REPAIR of CULVERT on
Adams Street & Madison Street**

The City Manager explains to Council that this is catch basin pipe that runs from Water Street down Adams Street and crosses to Madison Street and that it broke a few weeks ago and caused a substantial amount of flooding in that area. The Public Works crew dug it up to do repair they determined that there were some plantings have infiltrated the pipe and caused it to collapse and resulted in flooding. The pipe is put together for now where it broke but when it rains it bubbles up through the plantings and there is a good chance the pipe with rupture again. He further comments that the project is too big for our Public Works crew to handle in house and it is something we do not have the proper equipment for and it would take a substantial amount of time. He updates that he and Howie have reached out to several contractors for estimates. Only one response was received which the City Clerk has. He notes that it is being brought to Council now because of the potential for another rain storm and getting this fixed is a priority.

The City Clerk gives the quote/estimate to the Council President and he continues forward with opening it and reading it. It is from Down East Masonry & Construction and it is for 150 feet of 12" black plastic culvert, to include the cutting of asphalt to cross road, with two wheeler loads of ground crushed stone, for the asphalt repair. Two water bars, rip rap bank in places where needed, and the repair of driveway going down in the yard from the wash out.

Councilor Peacock asks if the black plastic is comparable and the City Manager responds that it is better as what we have now is galvanized and the bottom is rusted out. He continues to say that the plantings grew up around the pipe and into it. The City Manager recommends that this come from Special Reserve as this is not a project nor expense that was budget for.

MOTION BRADBURY SECOND EMERY (PASSED 5-0)

To authorize and approve the digging and repair of culvert work on Adams Street and Madison Street and to accept the quote and award the project to Downeast Masonry & Construction for an amount of \$7,500.00 and that the funds be expended out of the Special Reserve account.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

- Fiscal Year 2020 Municipal Budget

The Council President opens the public hearing at 6:11 p.m.

The City Manager addresses Council and comments to say that in years past the Budget Committee typically presents the budget. However, this year they have elected him to it forth to Council. He informs that the budget is reflective of a reduction in the amount of \$27,368.00 the amount to be raised from taxpayers over last year. He updates that it includes money to fund clearing sidewalks, a Public Works maintenance oriented person to operate the sidewalk machine and to maintain assets the City already has and the purchase of a Senior Transport vehicle. He updates Council that the budget does not include monies for janitorial services for City Hall and that it has been taken out of the budget. He and the Budget Committee feel it is a service that is helpful but that it isn't necessary. He notes also that this person use to do both the City Hall and the Police Department and it has been determined that it is against regulations to have someone in the Police Department alone.

Council President asks if the audience has seen a copy of the budget and Dana Bard responds no, not the final version. The City Manager responds that what was published in the newspaper was a breakdown of the final version and has the lines with the specific line items and he notes that he had printed a couple copies with the overall summary of the line item by line item breakdown and he offers up a copy to Ms. Bard.

Councilor Emery and Council President addresses the City Manager with regard to the machine for snow removal from the sidewalks. He responds that the machine will be for multi use and the intent is to trade in the skid steer for it. It will allow us to use it for small projects in the summer and the machine would include a mowing deck and a bucket with hydraulic lifting arms and during the winter it could be mounted with a snow broom or a snow blower depending on the type of snow we get for snow removal from the sidewalks and it would allow for getting between the telephone poles on the sidewalks on Washington and Water Streets. It would make the sidewalks accessible for people who use them for transportation in the winter which has been brought to his attention. This not only helps business owners downtown or visitors to the City and that it also helps residents that do not have reliable transportation and will help them get around. If the sidewalks are clear they will not be walking in the road.

Councilor Bradbury speaks to a stipulation on the grant money to do the repairs on the sidewalks.

Councilor Peacock comments to say that she has often looked at Calais' machine that does theirs and she is pleased that we have included one in our budget. She makes reference to we have a great deal of senior citizens who still walk and it is critical that we address this for our pedestrians. The City Manager also notes that this machine would have a salt grinding system on the back of it. She addresses the City Manager with regard to help with park maintenance and he responds that this would be the same person and explains that this person was budgeted is for a 30-hour week part-time employee year round and that person would do the sidewalks in the winter and maintenance on any other odd jobs that the Public Works would need and then in the summer this person would focus more on maintenance maintaining things such our parks or buildings that the Public Works crew is unable to get to and it help prioritize and this person would be designated for those tasks. In addition, this person would also be able to help out with burials in the cemetery and to also assist the Public Works with any other task that they may need help with. He notes that it would be helpful with burials in the summer time as we often are paying overtime and this part-time employee could help with some of these tasks and it would help bring down the expense of overtime.

Council President addresses the City Manager relative to the plow truck and asks if it is a one ton or a ton and half. He responds it is a 3500. He comments further to say that he budget for a new one but that Howie believes that if the budget is approved and that money is approved, we would be able to find a very good used one for a significant savings. He also states that the same is true for the Senior Transport Van and that it is budgeted as a brand new one and he has done some research and has found that we can get a used one that would be comparable for less than that cost.

Council President asks what the increase would be to the taxpayer. The City Manager responds that it is a decrease but that it is hard to tell with the mil rate as we are unsure what that is going to look like just yet. The Tax Assessor responds that he is still working off the old assessments and he cannot bring over the numbers until after the fiscal year has closed. The City Manager points out that on the revenue side is that the revenue sharing allotment is an active topic in the legislature and that he budgeted for the lowest proposed amount between the Governor and the legislature, so in the event that the legislature get their way and the amount is increased, this is not budgeted for and would be revenue that we are not counting on.

The Council President addresses Ms. Bard from the audience and asks if she has any questions after review of the copy given to her by the City Manager and responds with a no.

Councilor Peacock recognizes the great support of those in the audience on behalf of the Peavey Memorial Library.

Cynthia Morse from the audience comments to say that she is in favor of the snow removal of the sidewalks and that it will greatly impact the safety issues. Council President reminds the audience that the owners of the property are responsible for their sidewalks out front.

Council President declares the Public Hearing closed at 6:21 p.m.

VII. ACTION on PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION BRADBURY SECOND PEACOCK (PASSED 5-0)

To accept and approve the FY2020 Municipal/City budget as recommended by the Budget Committee, as submitted, presented and brought forth.

Amount to be raised in taxes is \$3,201,625.00 for a total budget of \$2,610,109.00.

To approve the FY2020 budget of \$4,909,788.00 of which \$2,610,109.00 is education the amount to be raised by taxes \$3,201,625.00 and to approve a Sewer budget of \$369,087.00 as proposed and submitted.

VIII. COUNCIL APPROVAL to SET INTEREST RATE for FY2020 REAL ESTATE TAXES (per State, cannot exceed 9%)

MOTION BRADBURY SECOND PEACOCK (PASSED 5-0)

To approve setting the interest rate for the FY2020 Real Estate Taxes at 7%.

**IX. COUNCIL APPROVAL to set DATE for INTEREST to COMMENCE
RE: FY2020 REAL ESTATE TAXES (Recommended to be November 1st)**

MOTION PEACOCK SECOND EMERY (PASSED 5-0)

To approve setting the interest date for the FY2020 real estate taxes to commence on November 1st, 2019.

X. AUTHORIZE TAX COLLECTOR to ACCEPT TAX PRE-PAYMENTS for FY2021 (at 0% interest)

MOTION BRADBURY SECOND EMERY (PASSED 5-0)

To approve authorizing the Tax Collector to accept Tax Pre-Payments for for FY2021 at 0% interest.

XI. SCHEDULING of SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING for 6/10/2019

MOTION PEACOCK SECOND BRADBURY (PASSED 5-0)

To approve the scheduling of a Special City Council Meeting for June 10th, 2019 to be held at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of going into Executive Session for the discussion of candidates for the position of Police Chief.

XII. ADJOURN

MOTION SMALL SECOND PEACOCK (PASSED 5-0) TIME: 6:30 P.M.

To adjourn.