

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on **Monday, September 6, 2022**, at 6:30pm in Multipurpose at the Wren Memorial Library with Mayor Price presiding. Commissioner Boone gave the invocation with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance following. Commissioner Bray recited the Town of Siler City Mission Statement and Commissioner Brown recited the Town of Siler City Vision Statement.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Albert Alston, Norma Boone, Cindy Bray, Curtis Brown, Lewis Fadely, Bill Haiges, and Thomas "Chip" Price,

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Hank Raper, Attorney William Morgan, Public Utilities Director Chris McCorquodale, Public Works Director Cal Pettiford, Finance Director Tina Stroupe, Police Chief Mike Wagner, and Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the August 15, 2022 Minutes (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule A), Budget Amendment 2023.3 Airport Land Acquisition (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule B), Run 2 Win 5k Rolling Road Closure (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule C), Stormwater Utility Fund and AIA Grant Application (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule D), Sewer AIA Grant Application (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule E) was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Hannia Benitz, 127B East Raleigh Street, Siler City, NC 27344

Benitz invited the Board of Commissioners and those present at the meeting to the Hispanic Fiesta on Saturday.

PRESENTATION

Presentation of Service Weapon and Badge to Retired Major James Underwood

Police Chief Mike Wagner stated on March 21, 2022, the Siler City Board of Commissioners approved a resolution, recognizing James Underwood's 29 years of dedicated service to the Town of Siler City. Wagner presented Commissioner/Former Major James Underwood with his departmental service weapon and retirement badge as identified in the resolution. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule F)

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Members

Town Manager Hank Raper stated as the Town moves forward with the following plans, temporary advisory committee members will need to be appointed. Raper stated that Town Staff is recommending the following individuals to the temporary committees. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule G)

Strategic Plan (McGill)

Thomas "Chip"	Price, III	Mayor
Bill	Haiges	Mayor Pro Tem
Albert	Alston	Commissioner
Norma	Boone	Commissioner
Cindy	Bray	Commissioner
Curtis	Brown	Commissioner
Lewis	Fadely	Commissioner
James	Underwood	Commissioner
Hank	Raper	Town Manager

Economic Development Action Plan Committee (Sanford Holshouser)

Thomas "Chip"	Price, III	Mayor
Bill	Haiges	Mayor Pro Tem
Norma	Boone	Commissioner
Michael	Smith	Economic Development President
Cecil	Wilson	Downtown Advisory Committee Chair
Hannia	Benitez	Immigrant Community Advisory Committee Chair
Chris	McCorquodale	Public Utilities Director
Hank	Raper	Town Manager

Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee

Darrell	Andrews	Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Planning Board Member
Freddie	Blakely	City Limits Planning Board Alternate
Justin	Bridges	City Limits Planning Board Member
Dennis	Brooks	Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Planning Board Member
Ron	Dameron	Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Planning Board Alternate
Garrett	Frank	City Limits Planning Board Member
Linda	Kolpack-Martindale	Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Planning Board Member
Travis	Patterson	City Limits Planning Board Member
Ann	Radcliffe	City Limits Planning Board Member
Albert	Alston	Commissioner
Curtis	Brown	Commissioner
Jack	Meadows	Planning Director
Dalton	York	Planner I
Kim	Pickard	Permit Specialist
Cal	Pettiford	Public Works Director
Hank	Raper	Town Manager

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee

Lou	Giovenco	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member
Tina	Graves	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member
Andre	Mapp	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member
Richard	McSwain	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member
Kenneth	Powers	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member
Donna	Smith	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member
Ben	Suggs	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member
Cindy	Bray	Commissioner
Lewis	Fadely	Commissioner
James	Underwood	Commissioner
Jack	Clelland	Parks & Recreation Director
Randall	King	Athletic Program Supervisor
Jeremiah	Pilarski	Parks Maintenance Superintendent
Jenny	Clark	Administrative Support Specialist
Hank	Raper	Town Manager

The consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to appoint the proposed members to the temporary advisory committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department Sign-On Bonus

Police Chief Mike Wagner stated as the department continues to evaluate the highly competitive retention and hiring market, the following recommendation should be considered for the department to reach its staffing goals. The department has focused its hiring practices on two distinct groups, new hires, which must attend Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) and lateral transfers, officers who hold a state certification, with advanced training in their portfolio. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule H)

Wagner's recommendation is to offer a sign-on bonus will be offered to lateral transfers with 3 or more years of experience and possess a current law enforcement certification. Lateral transfers that meet these requirements and successfully complete all steps in the hiring process will receive a \$5,000.00 sign on bonus to join the department, with a three-year commitment of employment.

Wagner stated that lateral transfers bring experience and knowledge to the department, which will take a new officer 3-5 years to obtain, with additional cost to the department. With the level of experience lateral transfers can reduce the amount of time spent in the Field Training program, having an immediate impact on staffing and morale.

A motion to approve a \$5,000.00 sign on bonus to join the Police Department with a three-year commitment of employment was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved.

Water Metering Program

Town Manager Hank Raper stated that Town Staff has researched replacing all meters in town with radio read meters. After researching multiple types of meters, we have determined that ultrasonic meters are the best fit for the Town. These new meters will help the Town capture water loss, provide better accuracy, and cut down on the time and resources used for doing rereads. These ultrasonic meters maintain their accuracy through the life of the meter, which is 15 years. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule I)

Representatives Suez shared information about transitioning to ultrasonic radio read meters. This will also allow the water account user access to their usage through an app on their phone, giving them better control of their water usage and helping them and us to discover leaks sooner, which in turn cuts down on water loss and unnecessary high-water bills. To replace all three\four" to two" meters plus software has an estimated cost of \$2.4 million to \$2.7 million. We would use the second tranche of ARP funds (\$1.3 million) with the remaining in payments (approximately \$1.4 million) over 5 years, with a 2% interest rate. First payment due second quarter of FY 2024.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the program. Town Manager Raper asked if the Board would like to move forward with the request for proposals. The consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to move forward with the request for proposals for the ultrasonic meter replacement program.

Fire Aerial Ladder Truck Purchase

Fire Chief Scott Murphy shared information with the Board of Commissioners about the proposed purchase of 2007 ninety-five' Pierce Dash Mid mount Platform. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule J)

Murphy stated that the current ladder is a 1998 75' Pierce Dash designated Ladder 9. Ladder 9 has served the Siler City area and surrounding communities faithfully and without incident or failure. With the new and larger apartment complexes built and proposed growth in the future, the current truck will not reach the roof lines let alone third-floor apartment windows to try and perform rescues. This is due to building setbacks. We have already experienced these issues during fires at Cateland Place Apartments, Stone Crest Apartments, North Glenn Apartments, and the most recently built Siler School Apartments. We will have the same issues with the new apartments, being built on Campus Drive. The current aerial device may reach seventy-five' vertically but its horizontal reach is cut to 60 to 65'.

Murphy stated that he received an initial set of specifications from Pierce for a new one hundred' Tower Ladder, the purchase price was \$1,625,505.00 and does not assume a pre-pay discount which would be available (2019 E912 we used this option and save \$30,000.00). This increases by 7% on May 1st (\$1,739,290.00). After our revisions to the specifications, we are looking at \$1,765,000. With our current CIP approved by the Town Board we are scheduled to purchase a new ladder in 2024. At the current inflation rate and rise in material prices along with price increases from Pierce (another projected increase of 7% in November of this year, normally 3%) we are potentially looking at a purchase price of over two million dollars. There may be an opportunity to purchase a demo truck or stock unit that Pierce has on their production line now but, these will still be at a significant price of 1.6 million. Purchasing a demo will allow for a faster build time (current build times are 24 to 28 months). We began looking for a replacement ladder to try and save on pricing as we knew we as a Town have major Capital improvements that need addressed.

Murphy stated that they have located a replacement apparatus that is being sold by Atlantic Emergency Solutions who is the Pierce dealer for our region. This Tower truck began its career in 2007 with Loudon County Fire Rescue in Virginia and was housed at the Dulles South Fire Station. Loudon County traded it in on a new one hundred' rear mount platform in 2020. Since removal from service and given to Atlantic Emergency Solutions as a trade in. They have made the truck available as a loaner for departments that had either needed repairs on current apparatus or waiting on new apparatus. It bounced around Virginia and Maryland.

Murphy contacted the salesperson and inquired about the truck, which is \$155,000. They could get it moved to the Richmond Virginia service center. We asked if they could get it to the Greensboro service center and then to our station to check on height and length issues we may have with our current station. The truck is ten'8" OAH (overall height) and forty-six' 7" in length. Our current door opening is twelve' tall and our bays are fifty' long. The truck arrived at our station, and we backed into the building and had several feet to spare both in height and length. Career staff along with volunteers were able to be on hand and were able to operate and look over the truck. We took it to areas that we cannot reach with our current ladder. While we had the truck here, we began a list of repairs and potential issues. They stated that anything that was not working or needed repaired, would be correct before delivery to us.

Murphy traveled to the service center in Greensboro and met with our service manager. We raised the truck up of the ground and did an inspection of the undercarriage and frame. We did find surface rust in several locations. One location was worse than the rest. We fully expected to find rust due to the fact it was in service in northern Virginia. We also found other items that would need to be addressed while doing our inspection. The transmission had been replaced in July of 2021 and radiator and coolant lines were replaced in June 2022 (\$50,000.00).

Murphy stated while doing our inspection we also placed the aerial in service and ran it through maneuvers and Richie made notes on maintenance that would be needed. After we left and returned to the station, we compiled a list that added items that we had found. Again, they stated that anything that was not working properly that they would fix. They told me that the list would pass along and that they would be back in touch. The list that was emailed contained forty-six items.

On July 29, 2022, Murphy received via email an updated list and we reviewed the list. Out of the forty-six items Atlantic Emergency Solutions agreed to correct thirty of those items at their cost (estimated to be \$30,000). Items that we had requested would have to be done at our location, operational items regarding water flow operations and communications.

Murphy believes that the truck that has been found will not only be a budget saver but with all the information we have gathered on the life and service history. We believe that it will serve us at least another 10 years. It will not only get our set back issues resolved and it will also get to 100% credit on our ISO rating. Our current ladder will not get that rating due to lack of a ground ladder. With a ninety-five' vertical reach and an eighty-eight' horizontal reach it will give us a better reach due to setbacks on buildings. And will provide almost thirty-five' more horizontal reach and twenty-five' vertical reach than our current ladder.

Murphy stated as far as equipment, they have items in house already that we can use to place the truck in service after significant training time. Will we need to purchase power saws and hand tools. We will have to have it re-lettered to our specifications. We have contacted first alarm testing that manages our third-party aerial ladder testing. They advised that there would be a cost increase to test both aerials (would increase to \$2,000 for both aerial tests). Ground ladder testing would increase also as we are adding 1-35' extension, 2-28' extension, 1-20' roof ladder, 2- 16' roof ladders, 1-14' roof ladder and 1 10' folding ladder. This would increase to \$1,234.00 for all ground ladders in service.

Murphy shared a breakdown of costs to purchase this truck: Truck sale \$155,000, detailing to bring color back and clean up \$2,000, sandblast frame, apply rust inhibitor and repaint frame and components \$5,000, replace halogen flood lighting to LED \$9,177, graphics, and lettering estimate \$3,445.19. With a total cost of purchase is \$174,622.19.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the truck and asked where the money would be allocated from. The Board of Commissioners discussed using ARP funds for the purchase.

A motion to purchase the 2007 95' Pierce Dash Mid mount Platform for \$175,000 using ARP funds was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Haiges, and unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Hank Raper shared the following with the Board of Commissioners:

TOWN ATTORNEY INFORMATION

none

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

none

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to go into closed session for §143-318.11 (a)(4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment at 8:10pm was made by Mayor Pro Tem Haiges, seconded by Commissioner Fadely, and unanimously approved.

A motion to come out of closed session at 8:36pm was made by Mayor Pro Tem Haiges, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved.

A motion to go into closed session for §143-318.11 (a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee at 8:37pm was made by Mayor Pro Tem Haiges, seconded by Commissioner Fadely, and unanimously approved.

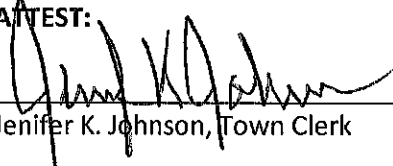
A motion to come out of closed session at 9:24pm was made by Mayor Pro Tem Haiges , seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 9:25pm.



Thomas K. Price, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jenifer K. Johnson, Town Clerk

