

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
REGULAR WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020  
6:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Charl Jones, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Lamar Maxwell, Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gloria Sistrunk, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Anthony Biddix, Director of Human Resources, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Devan Martin, Acting Chief Operating Officer, Diamond Plater, Council Clerk

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Mayor Grant

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the agenda. The motion carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Proposed Budget-Eugene W. Grant, Mayor**

- Mayor Grant stated that the staff is still working on the budget and we had some major changes that we had to work and make changes too.
- The budget that you are accustomed to receiving as the BFO format will not be submitted. The staff had been working on the budget since January and they had submitted the final numbers to Mrs. Wallace a few weeks ago.
- We will submit the budget in a line item format. We had major reductions of 30% of the budget. We had taken out all conferences, conventions and events from the budget. We are looking at \$900,365 and will we have a significant reduction in revenues.

- We have approximately 40 businesses closed in the city. We may not receive Business Personal Property Taxes. We will not be filling some vacant position and we may need to cut some positions. The only department that will have an increase in staffing is the Environmental Justice Department.
- The budget will be capped at 9,000,000,000 and he is praying that we do not have go lower than that. The speed camera revenue is projected at \$200,000,000 and the actual budget is \$7,000,000,000. We do not have enough data to predict on the revenues for the speed camera. If the revenues are stronger, we can go back and increase the budget to reflect the revenues that had come in at that time. The administration will make a recommendation and the council will have the approval authority.
- Mayor Grant read the Expense and Revenue Summary pages 10 and 11 of the Budget.
- We did submit to the Council the information regarding the CARES money from the Federal Government. We had asked for 27 Million Dollars of the County and Councilmember McCarthy had requested a copy of the proposal and she stated that she will be submitting a letter.
- There will be a conference call with the County on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 regarding the regulations and the municipalities that will be looking for a relief. The command center has been in operation for twelve hours each day since March 17, 2020. We have overtime for the Public Safety, Department of Environmental Justice, and Public Engagement Department. We have not activated the Call-A-Bus due to the driver being one of the vulnerable populations. We are looking to have the bus retrofitted to be put back on the road.
- We are looking to get reimbursed for some of the expenses to include the food drive
- Mayor Grant stated that he had been using WebEx and he is looking to get reimbursed for communication with the staff. This maybe a potential reimbursement, but WebEx is offering a free subscription for three months.
- Councilmember Jones stated that Thurman Jones and Calvin Hawkins will be doing a food giveaway on Saturday, May 9, 2020.

### **3. REPORTS:**

#### **3.1. Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Grant stated that he provided his report with the presentation of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.

#### **3.2. Chief Operating Officer**

- Mr. Martin stated that he was appointed to the Acting Chief Operating Officer position on Friday, May 1, 2020. In the past four days we are trying to get a hold of what has been going in within the Government.
- Mr. Martin stated that all the departments are still teleworking. Each of them will have detail duties to report each day and he will be submitting a report to Mayor Grant in the next week for the work that has been done in the last month.
- We are predicting that this maybe the posture we are in for the remainder of the year.
- Mayor Grant already stated about the WebEx subscription for us to have committee meetings and council meetings.
- Mr. Martin stated that he was aware of the communication regarding the issue with Bates and he had asked Mr. Bagley to contact his personal contact at Bates.
- Mr. Martin requested for the council to report the concerns of the trash collection in the app for tracking purposes.
- Mr. Martin stated he does not have monthly reports to submit as the quarterly reports were submitted last month.
- Councilmember Jones requested for Mr. Martin to identify himself.
- Mr. Martin stated that he is the appointed Chief of Police but is now acting in the capacity of the Acting Chief Operating Officer for the City of Seat Pleasant.

### **3.3. City Council Committee Reports**

#### **Finance & Budget Committee**

- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that on April 6, 2020 the committee met via Zoom and the Council clerk made the changes in numbers recommended in the last meeting to the following cost centers: Office Supplies, Council uniforms, Training, Professional development, Strategic Planning and Council retreat. The committee agreed to reduce the cost centers in the Council Budget and establish a new cost center of Legislative Initiative. training, office supplies. The FY2019-2020 budget was approved at \$314,241 and the proposed Council Budget for FY2021 is \$284,727
- Mayor Grant stated that if the revenues become stronger, the council can always allocate monies in the other areas.
- Councilmember Jones inquired when will the council receive the budget. Councilmember McCarthy inquired if the numbers included the reductions that was made on Saturday, May 2, 2020.

## **Government Affairs & Technology Committee**

- Councilmember Love stated that the committee met on Friday, May 1, 2020 to review and discuss the Personnel Manual.
- Mr. Biddix communicated with the Government Affairs committee that the changes made to the committee was completed and approved by the committee.
- The committee recommended that the manual be reviewed by the Mrs. Wallace and the City Attorney. Mr. Biddix explained to the Committee that the following changes were made to the manual: Leave Policies, Retirement, Health, and Other Benefits and Workers Compensation with supporting documents. The Governmental affairs Committee has made a recommendation to move forward with the personnel manual to be reviewed and approved by full City Council.

## **4. LEGISLATION**

### **4.1. Resolution R-20-14 Approval of the CDBG Cooperation Agreement with Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community**

**Development.** It was motioned by Councilmember McCarthy and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve Resolution R-20-14. The motion carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

**4.2. Charter Amendment Resolution CA-20-02 Amendment of Charter of City of Seat Pleasant to establish a New Section State of Emergency Motion to approve Charter Amendment Resolution CA-20-02 Establishment of a New Section State of Emergency.** It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve Charter Amendment Resolution CA-20-02. The motion carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

### **4.3 Ordinance O-20-15 Establishing a New Chapter 40-Civil Emergency**

- Councilmember McCarthy would like to see the legislation go to committee.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that she's concerned about the following language: Mayor or by a resolution passed by a (super majority) unanimous vote of all the members of the Council present and voting when such extraordinary measures are no longer required for the protection of the public peace, safety and welfare.
- Councilmember McCarthy requested for the language to be changed to Super Majority.

- Councilmember Love stated that she listened to all that the Mayor would have power over and it is a lot and she thinks that somethings may need to incorporate other people.
- Mayor Grant stated that the position of the Chief Executive Officer authority is like the President and you need someone to make the declaration. The decision will not be made without the consult of the cabinet.
- Councilmember Jones stated that this is giving the mayor executive privileges to make a decision and give the authority that council don't matter?
- Mayor Grant stated the decision is not being made alone, as he will rely on the experts in the field.
- Councilmember Jones stated that we can use the current State of Emergency with the pandemic to allow the decision.
- Councilmember McCarthy reiterated the request for this to go into committee.
- Council President inquired what will be the benefit or the anything that the committee can add to the legislation.
- Mayor Grant stated that he has no problem with it going into committee as long as they can meet this week.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that the public safety committee can meet this week to review and discuss this item.
- It was the consensus of the council to allow the public safety committee to review the legislation.
- Mayor Grant stated that no executive can just wake up and declare an emergency. We had a similar situation in the Town of LaPlata due to the hurricane.

**4.4 Ordinance O-20-16 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget for Grant Revenue for Police Department.** Ordinance O-20-16 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, May 4, 2020.

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **5.1. None**

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1. Approval of the Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve. The motioned carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

**7 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**7.1. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Hearing, Monday, May 11, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers or by Telephone Conference Call at 6:00p.m.**

**7.2 Constant Yield Hearing, Monday, May 11, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers or by Telephone Conference Call at 6:30p.m.**

**7.3 Public Session, Monday, May 11, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD, or by Telephone Conference Call at 7:00p.m.**

**7.4 Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, Saturday, May 16, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers or by Telephone Conference Call from 10:00a.m.-11:30a.m.**

**7.5 Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Review, Saturday, May 16, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers or by Telephone Conference Call from 12:00p.m.-5:00p.m.**

**8. ADJOURN**

8.1 Adjourn-

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Submitted by,

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*Dashaun Lanham*

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Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED 06/08/2020