

TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA
BUDGET COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Municipal Complex, Committee Meeting Room, 3rd Floor
100 Ann Edwards Lane, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Will Haynie, Joe Bustos, Bob Brimmer, Kevin Cunnane, Kathy Landing, Tom O'Rourke, Jim Owens, Gary Santos and Guang Ming Whitley

STAFF PRESENT: Eric DeMoura, Town Administrator; Marcy Cotov, Chief Financial Officer

Mayor Haynie called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes from the March 29, 2018 meeting

Mr. Owens made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Santos. All present voted in favor.

2. Public comments

FY 2019 Budget [None]

3. Budget Review –

Mr. DeMoura stated that this is the second Budget Committee meeting of Council and the purpose of this meeting is to make final determinations and decisions as it pertains to the proposed budget for next year. He stated that he will briefly review with Council the high-level information regarding the budget and discuss what has come from each departmental committee as far as recommendations. He said lastly, there will be an opportunity for members to make some determinations about Contributions to Outside Agencies. He stated that the proposed budget for next year totals \$158,603,193 which is a 4% increase over the current year budget of \$152,541,070.

PROPOSED BUDGET - ALL FUNDS

ALL FUNDS	FY 2018 BUDGET	FY 2019 PROPOSED
GENERAL FUND	\$ 86,158,803	\$ 86,617,952
DEBT SERVICE FUND	6,870,106	8,334,219
VICTIMS ADVOCATE	103,066	—
STATE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUND	2,383,961	1,896,646
CAPITAL FUND	81,163,859	85,030,419
Less Interfund Transfers	(24,138,725)	(23,276,043)
TOTAL	\$152,541,070	\$158,603,193

Mr. DeMoura stated that this increase is not found in the General Operating Fund. He said this increase is just one half of one percent over the current year. He said it is found throughout the Capital Fund for various capital projects and debt service.

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND REVENUES

GENERAL FUND	FY 2018 BUDGET	FY 2019 PROPOSED
PROPERTY & OTHER TAXES	\$33,423,094	\$36,086,616
LICENSES & PERMITS	30,490,737	31,423,934
STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS	906,647	310,000
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	1,708,797	2,076,192
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	4,102,139	4,298,517
FINES & FORFEITURES	490,000	520,080
INVESTMENT EARNINGS	186,543	286,543
RENTS & ROYALTIES	220,000	430,000
OTHER REVENUES	294,012	95,500
TRANSFERS IN	5,476,434	6,049,611
SALE OF ASSETS	100,000	100,000
FUND BALANCE	8,760,400	4,940,959
TOTAL	\$86,158,803	\$86,617,952

Mr. DeMoura stated that the Revenues match the Expenditures, which is one half of one percent over the current year.

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE HIGHLIGHTS

Addresses Citizen's Demand for Services

- Staffing to meet service demands
- School Resource Officers
- Operations Center
- Fire Station 4
- Equipment for growth
- Radios

Capital Investment

- Capital Improvements Plan

Technology Infrastructure Security and Support

- Staffing for systems and asset management software
- Network Management Security System

Compensation of Employees

- Pay for Performance
- Pension mandates

Mr. DeMoura reviewed the highlights and stated that Citizen's Demand for Services is a big portion of what is in the proposed budget for next year, with School Resource Officers making up some of the new positions, the new Operations Center and the rebuilding and expansion of Fire Station #4. He said the Capital Investment proposal almost equals the General Operating Fund total and this demonstrates a major move towards Capital. He said there are also some technology improvements as well as a merit base Pay for Performance recommendation that totals \$1.3 million. He said there are also the Pension Mandates that came from the State of South Carolina, which is the 1% equating to \$320,000. He stated that the respective departmental budgets went to each Committee. He stated that the following illustration is what came out of those Committees and would ask Mayor and Council to deliberate on these items.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- ✓ General Fund
 - ❑ *\$25,000 requested for Shared Recreational Facilities Grant*
 - ❑ *Housing for All – Mount Pleasant funding*
- ✓ State Accommodations Tax Fund
 - ❑ Reduce Wando Lowcountry Band contribution to \$1,000
- ✓ Capital Fund
 - ❑ Remove funding of Lucy Beckham Performing Arts Center

Mr. DeMoura stated that in the General Fund, the \$25,000 request came from the Recreation Committee for a Shared Recreational Facilities Grant. He said these are Recreation Facilities that the Town does not own but could further the Town's service provisions in Recreation. He said the \$25,000 would go towards any type of capital or facility improvements, but what would have to accompany the grant is an MOU (memorandum of understanding), approved by Council. He said what was brought to Finance Committee is a request from Housing for All, which is the Affordable Housing Task Force, in the amount of \$50,000 for next year. Under State Accommodations Tax Fund, the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAC) recommended funding in the amount of \$4,000 to support the Wando Band. While they are certainly a worthy cause, we have been officially notified by the oversight committee out of Columbia, which is TERC (Tourism Expenditure Review Committee), that the Town may have a difficult time justifying the accommodations portion and recommended the Town consider \$1,000 which would be more appropriate and in line with the State laws that govern the use of Accommodations Taxes. He said this is not a reflection on the worthiness of the applicant, but the funding source. He stated that he would recommend accepting their notice and moving the amount to \$1,000. He said lastly, in the Capital Fund in the budget in the CIP, there is \$500,000 out of Fund Balance set aside for improvements at the Lucy Beckham

High School Performing Arts Center. He said it is his understanding that the need for this funding may no longer be needed and asked that this Committee place it back into the funding source it came from.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that he is the Chairman of the Finance Committee and recalls Housing for All coming and making a request but does not recall the Finance Committee voting to fund this request.

Mr. DeMoura stated that Mr. O'Rourke is correct. He said the discussion from Finance Committee was for additional information and when it was provided, there would be further discussions at the Budget Committee meeting.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that the Finance Committee is not recommending at this time to fund this request.

Mr. DeMoura responded in the affirmative. He said that it came from the Finance Committee, but not voted on at the Finance Committee.

Mr. Santos stated that his esteemed colleague, Mr. O'Rourke, suggested this idea. He said there are some areas in the Town that have donut holes and are in the County. He said he would like to try and assist those areas. He said that the Snowden Community has a field in Snowden; however, it needed some repair in order to have some of the younger children play on it. He said the idea was to do a grant in the areas that are not technically inside the Town, but in the vicinity, and want to be part of Recreation. He said they have fields and facilities that the Town is able to use, and the Town is in need of fields for the children to play on. He said once these fields are repaired, some of the smaller youth will be able to play, which will open up other fields for the older youth to play on.

Mr. DeMoura stated that what was mentioned during the initial budget presentation that the Town does not plan to spend every dollar that staff believes will come into the General Fund next year, so there is \$200,000 in a contingency fund on the expenditure side that makes up that funding. He said any of these requests that come in, those funds would need to be utilized to continue to keep the budget balanced. He

said if Council is interested in funding the \$25,000 it would reduce the contingency amount by this amount.

Mr. Cunnane stated that he would also like to address some issues that resulted from the Fire Committee and afterwards. He said there were discussions on the staffing issue and how to increase the staffing of the Fire Department. He said as a result of the conversations in the first week of Mr. Mixon's tenure, two proposals were discussed that would increase the Fire Department's staffing by 10% for a grand total of \$675,000.

Mr. Cunnane made a motion to task staff to move funds totaling \$675,000 for the purposes of adding salary lines in the Mount Pleasant Fire Department, including adding Captains on the Ladder Companies, which currently are not staffed with an officer and upgrading one of the quick response units to operate on a fire apparatus.

Mayor Haynie stated that before there is a second, he asked Mr. DeMoura if the total work today can be reviewed before making Finance decisions. He stated that we may review department requests, as well as Community Investment Requests and may need a broader perspective than we currently have at this time.

Mr. Owens asked if Mr. Cunnane's request should be moved to item #5, Consideration for Additional Requests.

Mayor Haynie stated he was thinking item #7 Approval of Expenditures.

Mr. Cunnane stated that this does not need to compete with Community Investment requests since there are a number of places this item can be addressed. He said he does not want this to appear as if the Fire Department is competing with any other event or project.

Mr. Cunnane withdrew his motion.

Mayor Haynie stated that Mr. Cunnane's motion is a valid motion and will be addressed when looking at other numbers.

Mr. DeMoura stated that staff aligned the presentation up if Committee wished to consider the requests from departments first before addressing allocations for outside agencies. He said the budget is

balanced at \$158,603,193 and if Committee would like to increase expenditures beyond what is currently budgeted, additional revenues would be required. He said Committee may wish to address the issues prior to getting to the final vote on the bottom line numbers.

Mr. Santos asked Mr. DeMoura to clarify if Committee should address Recommendations from Committees first and move forward from there.

Mr. DeMoura responded in the affirmative and stated that none of those issues affect the Community Investment and said there is money in the line item for this separately.

Mr. Santos made a motion to approve the \$25,000 for Shared Recreational Facilities Grant as described earlier; seconded by Mr. O'Rourke.

Mr. Bustos asked if the \$25,000 is for fields in Snowden.

Mr. Santos stated that the funding is not just for Snowden, but any of the unincorporated areas may apply for the grant. He said it does not mean that one will receive the entire \$25,000 but allows them to apply for funds so the Town can repair the fields, so the children are able to practice and play. He said they are registering with the Town's Recreation Department.

Mr. Bustos asked who would be scheduling the fields' use.

Mr. Santos stated that the Town Recreation Department would schedule the use of those fields.

Mr. Bustos asked if they would belong to the Town's Recreation Department.

Mr. Santos stated that the fields would belong to the Snowden Community, but would coordinate with the Town's Recreation Department.

Mr. O'Rourke said that Snowden approached the Town requesting funding to repair their fields. He said the Recreation Department could use those fields. He said if outside groups begin coming to the Town periodically to ask for funding to repair their fields, it will become an issue. He felt that there needed to be an application process to indicate

what their use is, what the Town's use is, as well as costs, in order to determine if the Town would like to do this. He said the purpose of this was to be fair and equitable to all properties outside Mount Pleasant Recreation Department use. He said one of the things that the Recreation Director mentioned was if this could be open to a neighborhood association, such as Brickyard. He said what the Recreation Department is attempting to accomplish is to try and keep the small children closer to their home. He said if a Community Association needed a fence, they could come in and make a request from the \$25,000 grant. He said it appears to be a better way to expand use of facilities without trying to buy more land and pay more money. He said everything mentioned is part of a grant application that has to be approved by the Department first, then Council with a Memorandum of Understanding in place. He said this was meant to be fair and equitable.

Mr. Bustos stated that people who are not residents of the Town and participate in the Recreation programs must pay a higher fee. He asked if they will be paying a higher fee to play on their own fields.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that they are not playing games on these facilities. He said the Town would be putting up a better fence, fixing the ground so that you do not fall when you run on it, but can still justify the higher fee for nonresidents, because the facilities that they are playing on are nice and cost considerably more. He said that the Recreation Department would be able to use their facilities to help practice.

Mr. Santos stated the fees will not change. He said this is simply making funds available to fix the fields. He said the Town is trying to do the Neighborhood Sports Program for the children that range from four to eight years old. He said this would allow these younger children to play on these fields and open up fields for the older youth to play on during earlier timeframes. He said Snowden's fields are right across from the Recreation Center and have a large field. He said they may be able to have Lacrosse, as well.

Mr. Bustos stated that the Town has drainage issues and other issues in the Town and are charging more to those in the unincorporated areas to

play on their own fields. He said he does not feel comfortable with this for a number of reasons. He said he made his own commitment this year, that because there are drainage and traffic issues, that he wanted to focus on the core needs of this Town. He said going forward, there are shortages in the Town's infrastructure.

Mr. Brimmer asked if consideration has been given to additional costs to the Town in terms of maintenance of these fields or liability. He asked if it increases the Town's insurance to have children playing on their fields.

Mr. Santos said the owners of the field will do the maintenance of the fields. He said the Town is not doing the maintenance. He said if the grant is approved, the Town will prepare the field and it is up to the community to maintain it.

Mr. Brimmer asked about liability.

Mr. O'Rourke said although he should not answer this for Mr. DeMoura; however, it will not increase liability.

Mr. Brimmer said that if children are playing on a field that the Town is not maintaining, and they get injured, is the Town liable for not maintaining the field.

Mr. DeMoura stated that he would not expect the Town's liability to increase. He said unfortunately, if that same child is injured on one of the Town's well-maintained fields, the Town gets sued anyway. He said he does not expect the exposure to be anymore than it is today.

Mayor Haynie asked if the participants will be Town residents or residents of the communities in the donut holes.

Mr. O'Rourke said it will be both.

Mr. Santos stated that Recreation is a core service and serves the Town well. He said the Town has a low crime rate in Mount Pleasant and believes much of it has to do with an outstanding Recreation Department that offers so many services to keep the children engaged. He said that the Town has National Champions and these children grew up in the Recreation Department.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that he has been in Recreation all his life and said the Recreation Department needs more space to practice. He said for \$25,000 we can try this grant program or purchase more acreage and put up more fields. He said it appears that an effort such as this may be a solution.

Mayor Haynie stated that if this is approved, this \$25,000 reduced the contingency line item by \$25,000.

Mr. O'Rourke said he never mentioned that this came from the contingency fund. He said Mr. DeMoura said if there is an expense, then a revenue source must be found.

Mayor Haynie asked if there is another revenue source.

Mr. O'Rourke said he is aware of a few revenue sources that Council may at least discuss.

Mayor Haynie asked what revenue source Mr. O'Rourke is referring to.

Mr. O'Rourke said the Town has a generous General Fund Reserve and believes Council owes the taxpayers an explanation as to why the Town is holding more of their money. He said this is a simple area to find \$25,000. He said there is money in the Town and does not take away from those that are here to receive funding. He said he never thought it would be taken from the contingency fund.

Mayor Haynie stated that the motion before this Committee does not say where the funding will come from. He stated that the motion is only whether it gets put into the budget.

Mr. DeMoura responded in the affirmative and said the contingency amount of \$200,000 is not the community investment. He said the contingency is leftover funds without a designation. He said it appears to be the most appropriate place to take the \$25,000 from.

Mr. Bustos opposed. All others present voted in favor. Motion carries.

Ms. Whitley said on the Capital Fund item of removing the Lucy Beckham Performing Arts Center funding, she has been in discussions with Mr. O'Rourke and believes there is an opportunity to set aside some funding to hire a consultant to do an exploration of what the Town of Mount

Pleasant needs when it comes to Arts. She said whether it be a small community arts center with visual arts, galleries, studios, practice or rehearsal space or if it is something on a larger scale that could be supported by the Town and would be a positive benefit. She said since this would be removing \$500,000 from the budget, she would think hiring someone to perform an assessment to provide the data that Council will need going forward when the park on Rifle Range is being developed or in Carolina Park, perhaps there would be an opportunity to put up a building that is a Community Arts Center housed under the Recreation Department.

Mayor Haynie stated that he did sit in on this meeting and would likely save the Town millions of dollars going forward to have a blueprint now instead of doing it piecemeal. He said this was a recommendation from Committee to remove the funding for the Lucy Beckham Performing Arts Center. He asked if this is a motion to utilize a portion of this funding for a study.

Ms. Whitley moved to set aside a portion of funds to hire someone to perform an arts assessment of the Town; seconded by Mr. Santos.

Mayor Haynie asked if an amount can be included.

Ms. Whitley amended her motion to include up to \$50,000; Mr. Santos amended his second.

Mr. DeMoura stated that the funding for this would come from General Fund, Fund Balance. He said the \$500,000 will be removed from the Lucy Beckham Performing Arts Center, take \$50,000 from that funding and move it over to the General Fund.

Mr. Cunnane asked if there is anyone in-house that may be able to perform this type of assessment.

Mr. DeMoura responded in the negative.

Mr. Bustos stated that he will reiterate that the Town has drainage and traffic issues and \$25,000 here and \$50,000 there and this adds up to real money. He said until the other issues are addressed we are using

Fund Balance and we will soon be going into hurricane season. He said he cannot support this.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that we do not have to go into Fund Balance. He said there is \$200,000 in the General Fund that is not allocated.

Mr. Bustos stated that it is still in the Town's coffers.

Mr. Bustos opposed. All others present voted in favor. Motion carries.

Mayor Haynie stated that Committee will need to vote on reducing the amount to Wando Lowcountry Band to \$1,000.

Ms. Whitley so moved; seconded by Mr. Santos.

Mayor Haynie stated that this is to comply with State law.

Mr. Brimmer stated for clarification, this funding was destined for the LCI (Lowcountry Invitational Marching Festival), which is a competition held here in Mount Pleasant, but it does not involve overnight stay, and asked if this was the issue.

Mr. DeMoura responded in the affirmative.

All present voted in favor.

Ms. Whitley said to address the last issue, "Housing for All", she said they requested \$50,000 and asked if this is an ongoing yearly request or a one-time request.

Mr. DeMoura stated that he saw a three-year funding plan, so it is multi-year and said Mr. Little is here who has been heading up this effort and may be able to answer more specifically what this funding is for.

Jack Little, Executive Director, Housing for All, stated that it is to cover expenses they would incur to hire a full-time Administrator, for marketing, promotions, public relations. He said these would be the major costs.

Mayor Haynie asked if the Administrator will report to the non-profit that has been formed.

Mr. Little responded in the affirmative and said that it is not a Town position. He said in the bylaws the Town has a representative serving on the Board so there will always be a connection to the Town.

Mr. Santos asked if the Administrator's salary will be included in the \$50,000 or will the funding be to find an administrator.

Mr. Little said that it is included in the \$50,000.

Mr. Bustos asked if any land has been found yet.

Mr. Little responded in the negative.

Mr. Bustos said we have a non-profit that the Town has funded and has nowhere to go. He said we are funding things and this is taxpayers' money and we cannot be spending it if there is no real hope of anything happening.

Mr. Little said their task was to form a 501c3 and the papers are being processed with the attorneys and once the certification from the Secretary of State is received, then they may start looking. He said that this has been their focus.

Mr. Bustos asked what the 501c3 will do.

Mr. Little said so it can be a non-profit organization. He said currently, it is the Affordable Housing Committee and they will become a non-profit organization called Housing for All Mount Pleasant.

Mr. Bustos stated that an Administrator has been created, along with a salary and a job.

Mr. Little responded in the negative and said this is what they are proposing.

Mr. Bustos asked to what end. He said we have been at this for how long now.

Mr. Little said since January of 2016.

Mr. Bustos said we are creating this but does not believe it is the best use of the taxpayers' money.

Mr. Little stated that they have been investigating opportunities to purchase land, but none have been decided upon. He said they are focusing on hiring an administrator and obtaining the 501c3 first. He said they have developers and realtors on this Committee and know of properties; however, their instructions at this time are to form the 501c3.

Ms. Landing stated that she attended the most recent Taskforce meeting where it was discussed that they are getting ready to shift over and also found out more where the money that has already been provided by the Town went, which was to get everything ready in terms of the applications and hire attorneys. She said it was the seed money and the next step is to hire the person who actually oversees this process. Without that person it would be impossible to figure out what property they are going to purchase. She said the purpose of a 501c3 is to receive tax deductible contributions and be able to raise money. She said she remembers discussions, at length, as to different types of models that are available for this. She said some examples are to buy property and build or work out an agreement with developers to do a portion of the property. She said others were to find fixer-uppers, short sales, etc. She said the next step is going to need someone to oversee it.

Ms. Whitley asked if this is a one-time request and is the non-profit expecting to be self-funding through grants and fundraising in the future or will they come to the Town each year to request additional funding.

Mr. Little stated that it is a one-time request.

Mr. Cunnane said Mr. Little mentioned marketing and public relations and asked who they would be marketing to, how it would be marketed, how the money would be spent and what portion of the \$50,000 is going towards this.

Mr. Little said they would be using all mediums of marketing; newspaper articles featuring the faces of people who need workforce housing, and a great deal of social media.

Mr. Cunnane asked if this would be an attempt to raise money or recruit people to live in the housing.

Mr. Little stated that the idea is to prepare the way to ask for contributions and let people know what Affordable Workforce Housing is. He said once people know about it, they will be more supportive. However, they are not knowledgeable about what Affordable Housing is and not understanding the definition that the Town is using.

Mr. Cunnane asked which portion of the request would be for marketing and public relations.

Mr. Little said \$7,500 and another \$3,000 for special events. He said \$10,000 of the \$50,000 requested.

Mr. Santos asked how much has been funded already.

Ms. Cotov stated it was \$30,000 plus some attorney fees.

Mr. Santos said \$30,000 plus attorney fees in over two years is not much further than in the beginning other than becoming a 501c3.

Mr. Little responded in the affirmative. He said they had to validate the need, which was the Taskforce's responsibility and the Committee has been formed and they have been working on the 501c3, as well as getting communications plans together for marketing and ideas of what property could be available.

Mr. Santos asked where the \$30,000 went and if everyone is a volunteer.

Mr. Little responded in the affirmative and said the consultant is a volunteer as well.

Ms. Whitley asked if this decision needs to be made now or can it be referred back to Committee for more details, so Council may truly understand.

Mayor Haynie stated that he is leaning strongly to referring this back to Committees as this is not the time or place to discuss what is being spent on brochures and Facebook marketing. He asked if this can be referred to Committee for more details and bring the recommendations back to full Council.

Mr. DeMoura responded in the affirmative and said Finance Committee meets before what is expected to be final reading of the budget.

Mayor Haynie said if this number of questions are being asked of every applicant, this meeting will be very lengthy.

Mr. Brimmer made a motion to refer this item back to the Finance Committee; seconded by Ms. Whitley. All present voted in favor.

Mr. Little stated that the Committee would like to express their gratitude towards the Town's support.

Mr. Cunnane stated that he would like to readdress the motion he made earlier regarding Fire Department staffing and salary line.

Mayor Haynie asked if this could be sent to the Fire Committee and allow them bring this item back before final reading of the budget, because this is a very detailed issue.

Mr. Cunnane said that it is not that detailed, because this would be two proposals that use equipment that is already available in the Town to increase the staffing, so there is no purchase of vehicles. He said that it is increasing the salary line to increase the number of positions and a few promotions to create a more professional fire department at a low cost in comparison to starting from the ground up with new equipment.

Mayor Haynie stated that if we had that much discussion over housing, he can imagine how much discussion \$600,000 will have for the Fire, because it is a serious issue.

Mr. Cunnane stated that the School Resource Officers did not have much discussion because it is obvious that certain things need to be done.

Mayor Haynie stated that they did have a Committee meeting and a Special Town Council meeting on that subject.

Mr. Cunnane made a motion to task staff to move the funds over for purposes of adding salary lines in the Mount Pleasant Fire Department by adding Captains on ladder companies and upgrading one quick response unit to operate on a fire apparatus. He said how this can be accomplished may certainly be brought back to Fire Committee as well; seconded by Mr. O'Rourke.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that Mr. Cunnane has a good point in the fact that safety trumps everything. He said we made a good decision with the

SRO's (School Resource Officers). He said that his questions are going to be to the Fire Chief, because he wants to hear from staff and what they think. He said he believes it would be favorable to refer that back to the Fire Committee.

Mr. Cunnane said he is agreeable; however, the concern was after the meeting and some of the meetings he has had with the Fire Department leadership, is that the turnaround time to actually place people and units in service is a minimum of nine months, so if it is pushed another year, we are talking about two years out and we are approaching a Town that is close to 90,000 residents and not able to do two responses at once.

Mr. O'Rourke said the Chief has only been in his position for a short time and he would suggest meeting with the Chief and Mr. DeMoura to start.

Mr. Cunnane stated that this was started, and it was kicked back and forth on how to make this proposal better. He said there are other ways, which is why he is tasking staff to come up with the funds and then the Committee can look at it.

Mr. O'Rourke said you do not come up with the funds and then figure out how to do this.

Mr. Cunnane said the objective is to increase the staffing of the Fire Department. He said that he has spoken about this issue for three years and is 100% truthful in saying that this keeps him up at night to think about the size of the Town versus the staffing. He said the Town has the potential to add a 10% increase in staffing to go from 30 personnel on duty to 33 every single day for a small amount of money, and we are also adding a unit which increases the Fire Department's ability to train during the day. He said they will be able to take units out up to Awendaw with a lot less impact if there is one extra unit.

Mayor Haynie stated that no one is arguing the merit of this request.

Ms. Whitley stated that there is still time for this to go to the Fire Committee and still be voted on for this year's budget.

Mr. DeMoura stated that Council members are able to send anything to Committees, as they meet prior to the Council meeting.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that this should go back to Committee, because there is not enough information available. He said that he is a staff person and has been all his working life and believes Council owes it to Chief Mixon to lead this discussion, not just be a part of it.

Mayor Haynie stated that the motion is a budget motion for staff to actually transfer funding.

Mr. Cunnane stated that if members of this Committee would like to vote against increasing staffing at a Fire Department, they must own their vote.

Mr. Brimmer, Fire Committee Chairman stated that he has read the proposal and discussed this with Mr. Cunnane, which has a lot of validity. He believes the merits of his requests deserve consideration. He said what he is not comfortable with is for Council members to discuss allocating almost \$700,000 of taxpayers' money without discussion. He said it is not good government and is not fair to taxpayers to have that amount of funding considered without detailed discussion with the Fire professionals. He said this has not happened in Committee, so the idea that Council own a vote or not supporting the Fire Department is offensive. He said if he opposes this motion today, it is not a reflection of any kind of loss of support for our Fire Department in any way. However, Council owes it to their constituents to vet a proposal of almost \$700,000 and discuss what is trying to be accomplished to move forward responsibly.

Mr. Cunnane stated that traditionally in the last few years, the Fire Committee has not met monthly and it has not changed. He said he realizes Committee days are busy. He said this effort started two months ago and there was no Fire Committee meeting, and although he asked for the meeting, it was not scheduled. He said it can be kicked back to a Committee that is basically a part-time Committee, and this is the reality. He said this is not a reflection on Mr. Brimmer, but this is how it has been for a few years. He said it is fine to push it back to Committee and have the discussion, but much of the discussion is not comfortable for the Chiefs, because they have not been empowered to talk about the reality on the ground. He said when he shows a picture of a total loss

house fire, it makes people very uncomfortable and it is not just one, but several. He said the larger homes require more staffing than we have, which is the bottom line.

Ms. Landing stated that she would like to amend the motion to send this matter back to the Fire Committee to be discussed this coming month so that it will be fully vetted prior to final reading of the budget; seconded by Ms. Whitley.

Mr. Bustos stated that he has heard from Mr. Cunnane today; however, he has heard nothing from the Fire Department or the Town. He said if you look back at the track record of the Fire Department, we have a good track record, solid and do the best we can for the citizens of this Town, as well as all the departments in the Town, and they all work as hard as they can. However, in order to make a decision, Council needs to have more information. He said he understands Mr. Cunnane's passion and his background in Fire Service. Mr. Bustos stated that he was also a police officer, but is not going to suggest telling Chief Ritchie how to run his department. He said at some point when they become elected officials, they become generalists and must forego their passions in order to do the best they can for the Town. He said this is something that needs to be discussed and agrees with Mr. Brimmer that we are looking to commit a fair amount of money.

Mr. Owens stated that as a member of the Fire Committee, he is committed to addressing Mr. Cunnane's concern as he brings up extremely important issues with regard to safety and fire safety, in particular. He said Council owes it to all the citizens to ensure that they have the best Fire Department and they are well staffed throughout the Town of Mount Pleasant. He is committed to listening to Mr. Cunnane's concerns regarding the amount of money it is going to take to bring that level of service up to a satisfactory condition for a Town of this size. He said he will support the ability to staff or provide equipment so that this Town is second to none with regard to its fire safety.

All present voted in favor.

Mr. Cunnane asked if the amended motion removes the funding and if so, it should have been a new motion.

Mr. Pagliarini stated that the way it is currently setup now, Mr. Cunnane's motion, as far as the funding, will be addressed at the Committee level.

Mayor Haynie stated that the first vote was to amend.

Mr. Pagliarini stated that the first vote was to amend to send it to Committee and technically, the motion now would be as Mr. Cunnane stated, per his request, that would be the precise issue discussed at Committee.

Mayor Haynie stated that there does need to be a second vote. Mr. Cunnane's motion did not include sending it back to Committee. He said the amendment sends it back to Committee. He said the content of Mr. Cunnane's motion send that content back to Committee, because that is how it was amended.

All present voted in favor.

[Mr. Santos departed the meeting at 12:53 p.m.]

Mr. Bustos stated that in the deliberations by the Fire Committee on this, we are talking about a standard and his concern is we are discussing a satisfactory fire service according to what? He said this is part of what the Fire Committee could recommend.

Mr. Cunnane stated that he has a masters degree in this and there are different standards out there.

Mr. Bustos stated that he continues to hear "satisfactory", and he would like to have the question answered, "satisfactory according to what?".

Mr. Cunnane stated that the first page of the ISO (Insurance Services Office), report addresses that it does not cover "life safety" so that is one example of a way that people think that an outside look answers that question, but it does not if you read the actual report. He said he would be happy to show Mr. Bustos the front page of the ISO report.

4. Discussion of Community Investment Requests

Mayor Haynie stated that he has had discussions with the Chairman of the Finance Committee and would like to improve upon this process and make it less of a popularity contest and more of what is needed for this Town, because it is the taxpayers' money. He would like to advise all of the April 18, 2017 minutes when as a Councilman, he brought up what was stated in the directions from the Municipal Association of South Carolina, case law and the Attorney General's recommendations that for these types of grants, "the benefit to the public must be primary or direct and not merely incidental." He said there are four guidelines for these grants: (1) grants without restrictions should be avoided; (2) the four-part analysis should be used in cases discussed to consider whether there is the requisite public interest and benefit or whether the expenditure merely or predominately benefits the membership of a private group; (3) performance-based contracts for services should be considered as the appropriate vehicle for funding; and (4) control should be put in place for any expenditures such as specifications, conditions and contingencies. He said Council needs to be guided by these. He said he would like to provide each applicant present with an opportunity to briefly state the reason for their grant. He said he would like to refer all this back to the Finance Committee to do the detailed work on this and apply the test so that the law and guidelines of their own association (MASC) are being applied and can include the final grants in the final reading of the budget. He said otherwise, the meeting will take all afternoon.

Mr. DeMoura stated that the applicants should be able to deliver precisely and concisely their request in 60 seconds.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Agency	Amount Requested FY 2019	Committee Proposed FY 2019
3rd Brigade South Carolina State Guard	50,000	
Accelerate Charleston	25,000	
Bands of Wando High School Boosters	20,000	
Center for Women	5,000	
Charleston Animal Society	50,000	
Charleston Port and Seafarers' Society	9,000	
Charleston Symphony Orchestra	10,000	
Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy	25,000	
Crime Stoppers of the Lowcountry	2,000	
Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center	25,000	
East Cooper Faith Network	9,500	
East Cooper Land Trust	25,000	
Engaging Creative Minds	20,000	
IOP Connector Walk/Run for the Children	5,000	
ITN Charleston Trident (Senior Ride Charleston)	10,000	
Lowcountry Food Bank	5,000	
Lowcountry Orphan Relief	3,500	
Mount Pleasant Community Arts Center	32,635	
Operation Home	10,000	
Pet Helpers Inc	10,000	
Windwood Farm Home	6,000	
	\$ 357,635	\$ -

Available Funding Amount	\$ 200,000
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3rd Brigade South Carolina State Guard

Chief Sheffer with the SC Guard said they are an all-volunteer defense force and perform three to five military funerals per week at no cost to the families or veterans. She said they pay all those expenses themselves. She said they are called up by the Governor of SC in the event of a hurricane or an emergency. She said they have a very limited budget and many times spend their own funds, because they are all volunteers. She said they are asking for \$50,000.

Mayor Haynie asked if they had a strong presence at the Cooper River Bridge Run.

Chief Sheffer stated that there were 110 soldiers working 24 hours, and they were all volunteers.

Mr. O'Rourke said that they requested \$50,000 but only received \$2,000. Why?

Chief Sheffer stated that it was the first time they requested funds from the Town of Mount Pleasant.

Mr. O'Rourke said it is hardly anything compared to what was requested. He said there is either an issue with the request or what was given last year. He said this is a big disparity.

Chief Sheffer stated that Col. Muse was here last year and is currently out of Town.

Mr. O'Rourke said that if the Town does not provide any funding, 3rd Brigade will still assist at the Bridge Run.

Chief Sheffer stated that if they receive nothing, they will still show up during a hurricane, emergency or any kind of disaster, as well as the Bridge Run, and will pay for it out of their own pockets. She said they are simply asking for their packs to be supported.

Accelerate Charleston

Adrian Cain with the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce stated that this Chamber has a long history of supporting scholarships and workforce development programs for the community of Mount Pleasant and the greater Charleston area. He said there are currently 18 students at Wando engaged in the apprenticeship program. As an apprentice, a student as an upcoming Junior, will enter with an employer, Trident Technical College and their high school, spending half their time at Wando, half at Trident Tech and at least one day a week during the school year and full time during the summer, with that employer. The aim of this program is to provide that student an opportunity to change their life. It targets a student that is typically not going on for a four-year degree and also targets our highest and most high in demand career sectors being created in our economy. We know the Charleston Region is going to create roughly 26,000 jobs over the next two years and that our current workforce development is ill-prepared to be able to respond to that need. He said what they do is look at students graduating from local high schools and ensure they have a direct connection to those skills being created and a way they can eliminate any barrier for that student to pursue that career. He said Council was invited to a meeting

yesterday where they awarded 25 scholarships to students with a 2.0 to 2.9 GPA. He said these students would not have otherwise had scholarship support, with two coming directly from Wando. He said the Chamber, with the Town's support, has afforded those students the opportunity to go on to a two-year degree to seek a technical education that allows them to change their life fundamentally. He said the awards and the thoughts from the parents that day was inspirational in terms of the impact being had. He said this is providing someone that would otherwise be left behind by a system of support that exists in the State level to ensure they have a connection to the direct career.

Mr. Brimmer asked how much of the scholarships do the Wando students receive.

Mr. Cain stated that for the apprenticeship funding, the Chamber provides \$1,000 per child, per year they are enrolled typically through a two-year process. He said for the scholarships, it is needs based upon removing any barrier that child will have to keep them from going on to pursue a two-year degree. He said they utilize all federal and state funds available, and the Chamber then provides the last dollar. He said there are some toolkits that are \$8,000 if they are going into auto-mechanics, of which there are two students at Wando in that program now. He said they will pay for those tools for that student to complete the program so they can work at Volvo, Mercedes or Rick Hendrick.

Mr. Brimmer asked if scholarships they gave out were \$8,000 for each child.

Mr. Cain responded in the negative and said in those cases for the two students, they worked with the state to leverage funds to ensure they are able to pay for the tools for those children to complete the auto-mechanic training program.

Mr. Brimmer asked Mr. Cain how much the Chamber paid out of their funds.

Mr. Cain stated that for the funds received from Mount Pleasant, 100% of the funds went towards paying for those 18 children in the apprenticeship program at \$1,000 each, and they have two children

through scholarship programs and the cost to the Chamber exceeds the grant spent by the Chamber.

Mr. Brimmer asked if all the money that was provided from the Town went to scholarships.

Mr. Cain responded in the affirmative.

Mr. O'Rourke asked if the Chamber seeks funding from other governments.

Mr. Cain said that they do have support from Charleston and North Charleston governments and it is a similar amount. He said the Chamber also invests a staff member and knows that many of the students come from situations in their households where they do not have a two-parent household or any parent at all. He said the Chamber invests a staff member to usher those children through that process. He said Trident Tech has a retention rate that is rather low compared to a four-year institution, which is normal. He said the Chamber's students are graduating in more than double the rate than the average student, because the Chamber is hands-on with the students to try and help the workforce development.

Bands of Wando High School Boosters

Rebecca Imholtz stated that she has been a parental volunteer for the Bands of Wando High School for twelve years. She said the Community Investment Grant will benefit the Town of Mount Pleasant in several ways. She said our students are goodwill ambassadors for the Town and future generations. It is an investment in our students, because regardless of their ability to pay, they can participate in the Bands of Wando program. She said it can also be a life-changing experience for these students who may not have the support at home that most of our children enjoy in our community. She said a student lost their mother suddenly to cancer and she said the Bands of Wando saved her. She went on to become successful and went on to college and also brought her siblings up through the program. She said this program develops goodwill ambassadors for the Town and wherever they travel for competitions, all they hear is what a great representative the students

are for the Town of Mount Pleasant, how gracious and positive they are. She said it is not just the name of the Town of Mount Pleasant on a semi trailer truck, but the students themselves. She said she is now seeing, having been in the program for twelve years, the generations that benefited from the first Wando really made a name for itself in a state and national level, those graduated students who are now young adults in their 20's are coming back and volunteering with the Bands of Wando. She said this grant benefits students, development of goodwill ambassadors and future generations.

Center for Women

Leila Shebaro, stated that they are requesting funding for free and low-cost programs that address women's unique barriers to economic security. She said they provide funding throughout Charleston, but they do one program a month in Mount Pleasant and have a partnership with Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union, so they are able to have free space to minimize costs. She said these programs include founders lab which is a small business development workshop for women that addresses some of the unique challenges that they face, including access to finance, as well as confidence building, developing a business plan with expert volunteers, Connect-the-Dots which is a lunch and learn seminar that addresses personal and professional development topics and is often led by women who are small business owners, many of whom come from Mount Pleasant, so it is an opportunity for networking and exposure for those community members. She said finally, a program called Ready-for-Work which is a free job readiness course for women who are unemployed or under-employed and this population is often women who may be homeless, have experienced extreme grief, have taken an immense amount of time out of the workforce to care for loved ones and are coming back into a workforce that they do not remember with a different interview and application process. They go through a series of courses that teach them how to navigate this. They are requesting funding for supplies, and the administration and coordination of the programs. She said they serve approximately 12,000 women each year and approximately 1/3 are Mount Pleasant residents.

Mr. Cunnane asked if this organization engages in any political activity.

Ms. Shebaro said last year they had a program that was a multi-partisan program that trained women who were interested in running for office, but not politically engaged in terms of legislation or any kind of party politics.

Mr. Cunnane asked how the Town can be assured that the funding is not being used for anything political.

Ms. Shebaro said if the funding is restricted to their education programs, it will not be used for anything else. She said it is unlikely that they will continue that work. She said they had women coming to them stating that they would like to get involved in the electoral process, maybe just as voters and potentially as candidates or even community advocates. She set up a series of workshops that feature people from across the political spectrum that even covered registering to vote and what to expect. She said it was not intended to have any partisan impact.

Charleston Animal Society

Joe Elmore, Chief Executive Officer, stated that their request is a public health and safety request for the reduction of free-roaming cats in the Town of Mount Pleasant, which they have been working on for the past eight years when the ordinance was passed by Town Council in 2010. He said it is a public/private partnership and the request is for \$30,000 for a \$56,000 project, the balance of which will be made up by their donors. He said the funds would be restricted to delivering 500 surgeries for free roaming cats. He said in 2010 when the Town ordinance was passed, the free roaming cat population was exploding and accelerated from the previous five years. They implemented the program of high-volume, high quality spay and neuter and after 18 months, the free-roaming cat population began to decline and has continued to decline. Last year 741 animals were brought to them by the Town of Mount Pleasant. He said their donors subsidized \$170,000 of that cost. He said ten years ago when they started this, the Animal Society was putting down upwards of 7,000 animals a year and it is now below 500.

Charleston Port and Seafarers Society

Maria Stevens stated that she works for Mediterranean Shipping Company, but is present for the Charleston Port and Seafarers Society. She said she is on the Board of Directors and they need help. She said the ministry is carrying on a 197-year tradition for the seafarers at the Port of Charleston. She said there are 65,000 seafarers who come to the ports here in Charleston and 20,000 of them come to the Wando Terminal. She said most are away from their homes for nine months and have no contact. She said when they come to the ports, their seafarers' volunteers pick them up and bring them shopping in Mount Pleasant with cash in hand. She said that money is coming into the community of Mount Pleasant. They bring in anywhere from \$400,000 to \$450,000 into the Town. She said they support everything they have been asked to participate in. She said Father Lynn, who is their Chaplain, does the Blessing of the Fleet every year. She said they work from donations and grants and they are all volunteers. She said they have two minor paid individuals, but the rest volunteer in order to enable their seafarers to know they are being cared for here.

Charleston Symphony Orchestra

Michael Smith, Executive Director, stated that it is very clear that the Symphony is becoming a much more integral part of the cultural identity of Charleston, particularly in the Town of Mount Pleasant, from their sold-out Messiah performances at St. Andrews Church, to the work they do in all the schools in the Town, to their work with their musicians, and teaching the wonderful students at Wando High School. He said this year, they had the entire trumpet section from the Wando Band perform with them at the Gaillard. He said additionally, approximately 25% of their members are residents of the Town of Mount Pleasant. He said this year will be their 8th year in the black and they have made tremendous progress in the financial stability of the Charleston Symphony and approximately 50% of their revenue comes from contributions, compared to approximately 70% in the past. He said they have made tremendous progress, but they are still unable to do what they do without the Town's support. He said they are requesting \$10,000 to

support their performances and their educational activities that they believe will have a significant impact on the Town of Mount Pleasant and its residents.

Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy

(no name given), stated that they would like to thank Council and both Fire and Police Chiefs for their continued support. He said the assistance they have received from the Town has been tremendously helpful in providing crisis community care. He said in 2017 alone, they served 2,225 individuals in Mount Pleasant and of the \$25,000 awarded to them, they spent \$32,000 to provide those direct services in Mount Pleasant. He said year to date, they have served over 1,500 at a cost of \$22,000 so they are well into the year. He said all the calls they receive come from First Responders (Fire, Police, EMS, citizens), and they provide ministry to the community. He said they are in compliance with the grant and coordinate all their ministries at the request of the Town. He said they will continue to provide services to the Town. He said when they sit on the side of the road with a citizen who has lost someone in a traumatic situation or sit with a mother whose child has taken their life, there is nothing that will compare to that kind of care provided. He said he thanks the community as well, because they provide the majority of their budget.

Crime Stoppers of the Lowcountry

Bob Hozel, Treasurer, and said they provide a way to report a crime or criminal without fear of being penalized for it and with no evidence as to who the person reporting is. He said they do this with a budget of \$15,000 and everything is done with volunteers. He said that they are asking the Town for \$2,000. He added that last year, what they did led to an arrest of 64 felons and this year they have 9 currently, plus other items such as recovered stolen property. He said they appreciate the Town's support.

Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center

Carole Campbell Swiecicki, Executive Director, stated that for 27 years, the Dee Norton Advocacy Center has been helping children and families

where there has been concern of abuse. She said they work to prevent abuse and to help children stay protected and on the path to healing when abuse has happened. She said they do this through a collaborative community response to child abuse which means they provide forensic interviews, mental health assessments, treatment where necessary for children and families. She said they also collaborate with a whole host of community agencies to coordinate services on behalf of the child and family and are grateful for the support and the work they are able to do with the Town of Mount Pleasant Police Department. She said they are out of space at their current center and are expanding to Mount Pleasant. In less than a month, they will open a center East of the Cooper at 677 Long Point Road. She said the reason they are doing this is when they looked at the services they provide today, they found that the greatest need is East of the Cooper River. She did their comparisons looking at typologies of abuse that transcend socioeconomic boundaries. She said it happens here in Mount Pleasant. She said last year, they saw an 18.5% in the number of children they were able to serve from the Town of Mount Pleasant, which is up 36% from the prior year. She thinks that this is because they have begun to talk more to the community about the issues of child abuse and the fact that children can and do heal if they are given the proper resources. She said they are excited to come to Mount Pleasant and request \$25,000 in support of their services.

Mayor Haynie asked Chief Ritchie if the Police Department works with Dee Norton Center if there are children involved in an issue. He asked if the police take children directly to the Center.

Chief Ritchie stated that the Center's forensic interviews are crucial to protecting the children.

Mayor Haynie asked if the Center's forensic interviews are used in a law enforcement or legal aspect.

Chief Ritchie stated that the Center works with the investigators.

Mr. Cunnane asked what it would cost the Police Department to replace their services if this organization was not here in existence,

Chief Ritchie stated substantially more.

Ms. Campbell said there is a national study and it would cost the Police Department 36% more if a Children's Advocacy Center was not in the community.

East Cooper Faith Network

Al Jenkins and Anthony Major who are both volunteers were present. Mr. Jenkins said it is a consortium of approximately 35 churches and other affiliates that focus primarily on two things. He said they are a 501c3. He said one of their focuses is Early Childhood Development or Education. He said it is a mentor program beginning with the 2nd grade children that are at-risk in reading. He said this is one child, one mentor, one book, one hour per week. He said they have approximately 300 mentors now working in the program in nine schools. He said the request is for \$8,500 for training materials and reading matter. He said the second initiative is "fix it" which is working to help do simple health, safety and security repairs to homes for people who are unable to afford it. He said what they are finding is roof failing, which is a major issue in the community. He said in the request for funds, is the money to do one roof replacement this year. He said they were hoping to complete five and with the Town's generosity, they would be able to complete one from this funding.

East Cooper Land Trust

Catherine Main with Alison Geer, thank Council for their past support. She said 15 years ago the Town of Mount Pleasant started the East Cooper Land Trust to address conservation issues in our community. She is thrilled 15 years later that they are not a separate 501c3, but still need the Town's support. She said what they are able to do is permanently protect land. She said as elected officials and through zoning, Council is able to control certain aspects of the municipality; however, it cannot be permanently protected without permanent conservation easements. She said it is important to have the partnership they have with the Town in order to continue working with them and private citizens who are interested and willing to permanently protect their land. She said they provide resources that benefit the entire public.

Mr. Brimmer asked how the \$25,000 was used that was provided last year.

Ms. Maine stated that they have used this money to work toward their connective land conservation plan. They are looking at ways to create wildlife corridors as well as corridors and paths such as the East Cooper Trail which is something that will benefit the Town. She said there is a one-mile section of a multi-use path that is going in front of Oakland Plantation that they have spent a good amount of time and effort and it will be something that every citizen of Mount Pleasant can utilize. She said it will be a ten-foot-wide path that will be one mile long by US Highway 17.

Mr. Brimmer asked if it was used for planning purposes and not for purchasing property.

Ms. Maine stated that they leverage the funding that they receive from the Town. She said they had a \$230,000 land acquisition project that was done within the Town of Mount Pleasant on concrete next to Ben Sawyer Boulevard along the Sullivan's Island Causeway. She said they do take money that they receive from resources from the Town to leverage it to purchase land, but it did not go directly to purchase land.

Engaging Creative Minds

Robin Berlinski with Karen Felder, Principal of Jennie Moore Elementary and Collette DeGarity, PTO of James B. Edwards. She stated that Engaging Creative Minds provides arts integration support to local schools. She said they were able to expand their program into Jennie Moore and James B. Edwards elementary school, and Laing Middle School with an engineering boat building project that they are still working on. She said they also have programs in Whitesides Elementary, but they are not participating in that program. She said the engineering boat project was so successful that it was recognized by the National Association of Elementary School Principals who went to Jennie Moore and featured Karen Felder in the video that highlights Mount Pleasant schools. She said this year, they are requesting funding to provide the same schools with a new initiative using music and technology with the

Carolina Studios Bus where the kids are able to create CD's and music and write lyrics and improve their writing skills. She said that 100% of this grant goes directly to the schools.

Karen Felder stated that 600 children at Jennie Moore Elementary School were able to participate due to the funding that the Town of Mount Pleasant provided. She said as the principal of Jennie Moore Elementary School, she is here because Engaging Creative Minds is a fabulous project. She wanted to thank Council for all their support and especially for the SRO now in her school. They are so happy.

Mayor Haynie asked if the funds go to Engaging Creative Minds as a 501c3 and not the school district.

Ms. Berlinski responded in the affirmative and said that they are audited every year.

Mr. O'Rourke asked if the Charleston County School District provides funding to Engaging Creative Minds.

Ms. Berlinski responded in the affirmative and said they also receive funding from the City of Charleston, City of North Charleston and the Town of Kiawah.

IOP Connector Walk/Run for the Children

Elizabeth Granthum, stated that she is a member of the Isle of Palms Exchange Club and for the last 25 years, they have been sponsoring, along with the Town of Mount Pleasant and the City of Isle of Palms to have a 5k/10k Run Walk for the Child. She said their main mission in the Exchange Club is the prevention of Child Abuse. She said of the profits received from the race, 60% is provided to agencies such as Dee Norton and other agencies represented. She said the other 40% is divided between the Recreation Departments at the Town of Mount Pleasant and the City of Isle of Palms, The Isle of Palms Exchange Club and the other 10% goes back as seed money for next year. She said the Town has supported this event for a number of years. She said runners come from all over that utilize the hotels and restaurants.

ITN Charleston Trident (Senior Ride Charleston)

Jim Ledbetter, Executive Director for Senior Ride Charleston said they have been providing rides for over 12 years and in those 12 years, they have provided approximately 78,000 senior rides. He said this year they have done 10,000 rides between North Charleston, City of Charleston and the Town of Mount Pleasant. He said for the Town, they will provide approximately 3,500 rides this year. He said they provide rides 24/7, 365 days a year with no restriction on ride purpose. He said they are door to door and their member riders utilize approximately 42% of all those rides for medical appointments, but also go to the hair salon, Target, Wal-Mart and grocery stores. He said they would take the \$10,000 and leverage those funds with the fares that their member riders pay, which is less than half of what it costs them to provide rides, along with contributions from the community and their volunteers. He said their volunteers provide almost 25% of their rides. He said he promised Mr. Cambridge Jenkins, who is a member rider, that he would provide him 15 seconds to speak.

Cambridge Jenkins stated that he lost his vision in September 2016 and owns a small record label and publishing company. He said if it had not been for Senior Rides, he would not have been able to finish his project last week. He said the song that he has coming out, he will donate half of the downloads to the Red Cross and the Salvation Army and this is all because of Senior Rides. He said they keep those unable to drive, moving forward.

Lowcountry Food Bank

Alicia Duffany, Produce Initiatives Manager at the Lowcountry Food Bank where their mission is to end hunger in our community. They serve the ten coastal counties in South Carolina which includes Charleston and the Town of Mount Pleasant. She said they are requesting \$5,000 to put towards the purchase of fresh healthy produce to be shared in the community with families who are experiencing food insecurity. She said they are looking to distribute over 115,000 pounds of fresh produce in the Town of Mount Pleasant over the next year, so this will cover approximately 23,000 pounds. She said they partner with several

different organizations in the Town of Mount Pleasant for the distributions. She said one of their major partners is East Cooper Community Outreach and they also work with the Shifa Clinic among other agencies. She said they are big proponents of client choice, which means when families come to their food distributions, they are able to choose the items that their families need and want. She said 100% of this funding will go towards the cost of healthy produce.

Lowcountry Orphan Relief

[No one present]

Mount Pleasant Community Arts Center

Marie Louise Moreto stated that they are requesting \$25,000 and this is to help them get started as an arts organization. She said their ultimate goal is to have an Arts Center that would be all inclusive of performing, vision and literary arts. She said currently, Mount Pleasant does not have a theatre of any kind or a public art gallery and there are so many artists. She said the Town lost the Village Playhouse, the Crabpot Players, the Charleston Stage Company and there is nowhere for the arts to perform. She said they are requesting funding to do a wine and dine program which will be a theatre program. This is their initial program to let people know who they are, that there is a need for the arts, and that people in Mount Pleasant will come and support them.

Operation Home

Maryanne Langley, stated that they provide critical home repair, build wheelchair ramps and distribute heating and air-conditioning units for all low-income families in the tri-county community. She said their low-income families are 50% or below the medium federal income guideline, so for an average family of four, it is \$34,000 or less. She said inside that number, they focus on families with seniors. She said 60% of the families they service have seniors, one in five of the families have children in their homes and approximately 90% of all the families they serve are disabled. She said they are requesting a \$10,000 grant with \$6,500 going towards a roof replacement, approximately \$3,000 to build two

wheelchair ramps and \$500 to provide five families with air conditioning units.

Mr. Brimmer asked how many of the homes in 2017 were in the Town of Mount Pleasant.

She stated that they spent approximately \$40,000 in 2017 in the Town of Mount Pleasant for critical home repairs. She said there were two wheelchair ramps and 60 families received air conditioning units.

Pet Helpers

Alan Burger, Executive Director of Pet Helpers said this is their 40th year in existence and their 10th year for their adoption center and spay/neuter clinic. He said they were the first “no kill” shelter here in Charleston and take this role very seriously. He said they have a budget for the adoption center and for sheltering animals of approximately \$1.3 million dollars per year. He said approximately 6% of the animals that are either surrendered or come in as strays, come from residents from the Town of Mount Pleasant. He said approximately 13% of their adoptions are also from residents of the Town and are finding servicing residents in the Town becoming even larger. He said for some reason a grant request was not accomplished last year, but for the 12 years prior to that time, the Town of Mount Pleasant has funded at the \$5,000 level. He said what they are finding over the years as a no kill shelter, is that the cost to care for an animal with either medical or behavioral issues has increased dramatically. He said this year they are requesting \$10,000. He stated that they are not under a County-funded contract and people will bring animals to them because they are a no kill shelter, which means they do not euthanize healthy animals and rarely euthanize animals with issues.

Mayor Haynie asked where their main facility is located.

Mr. Burger stated that it is on James Island.

Ms. Landing asked why there isn't more of a cross-over in terms of the effort of Pet Helpers with Charleston Animal Society. She said they still euthanize approximately 500 pets per year.

Mr. Burger stated that Charleston Animal Society is an open admissions shelter and is funded by the County, so they will get a large number of animals. He said they also have somewhat of open admissions, but slightly different. He said the goal is all the same and they are all trying to reduce the number of animals that are euthanized that are healthy and solve the overpopulation issue.

Windwood Farms

Don Squires, Executive Director of Development, doing business as Windwood Family Services, said since 1985 they have been providing hope, help and healing to thousands of families throughout the tri-county area. He said over the past year, they have helped over 2,500 children in the tri-county area and this year alone, through their community-based program they have been in the homes of over 450 families and in the homes of over 175 families in Mount Pleasant alone. He said when calls are made into Department of Social Services (DSS) and there is some type of suspected abuse or neglect, once DSS goes into that home and it is found that there is no abuse or neglect founded case, that there may be a shortage of an essential need in the home and they go in to try and make that need up. He said sometimes it could be basic food, shelter, clothing, beds or furniture. He said they want to make sure that DSS never receives that call again and to ensure the children are in a safe environment and with educated parents that know how to parent. He said this year they are requesting \$6,000 to go towards their community-based prevention program. He said this will help offset some of the costs of supplies for those families, as well as salaries and mileage for the seven case workers that are on the road non-stop for families. He said they also have a clinic in Mount Pleasant that offers out-patient counseling and therapy, as well as a farm in Awendaw that serves 25 boys at any given time and serves about 100 boys a year, and their community-based program, which is their largest program, serving over 450 families per year.

Mr. Owens asked how many children are at Windwood Farm currently.

Mr. Squires stated that today they have 24 with a new admission this afternoon. He said they average 100 per year that are removed from their homes through state custody.

Mr. Owens asked what the grant funding provides for those 25.

Mr. Squires said the grant funding goes towards the community-based program which ensure that children do not end up at their farm home in Awendaw, to help with prevention.

Mr. Owens asked if Windwood also provides backup after the children have gone through the program.

Mr. Squires said to the extent of State and HIPPA laws. He said their outpatient clinic in Mount Pleasant is their follow up that continues the journey with those families to ensure the children are in a safe environment. He stated that it is located at 900 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard next to 02 Fitness.

Mayor Haynie stated that there is \$357,000 in requests and \$200,000 to consider for these requests. He stated that the Finance Committee has a great deal to consider in addressing these requests.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that the Finance Committee will do the work; however, requests guidance from Council so when brought back to full Council, will be approved. He stated that all the requests heard today are great requests and must cut \$150,000 out, which will be difficult. He believes it can be accomplished but suggested that by next budget year, it will not be done this way. He said he would like to request Mr. DeMoura help facilitate working with Ms. Livingston. He said that he also sits on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board, which is completely separate; however, their procedure for allocating funding works very well and is fair. He said there is an application with areas that must be met. He said when these requests become emotional decisions, it become very difficult; however, if the Town is aware of their goal is to fund, it will be a much smoother process next year, beginning with an application process. He said he would appreciate any feedback at this time, because it will not be an easy task. However, he would appreciate

support for next year and going forward to work with Ms. Livingston on a procedure to help.

Ms. Whitley stated that the #1 priority from her prospective, would be that the organization provide a service that the Town would otherwise be required to provide.

Mayor Haynie stated that this is what the Municipal Association of South Carolina advises the Town to do, as well as the Attorney General. He stated that prior to the Finance Committee meeting, he would suggest that the requests are put into those categories first.

Ms. O'Rourke stated that he does not expect these applicants to make a full presentation again; however, they are welcome to attend and speak if they wish.

Mr. Cunnane stated that there is \$200,000 for Community Investment Grants and believe that it would be responsible of this Committee to be honest and state that there was a large funding request that the community supported for new police officers this year and will be funded next year. He stated that he also discussed the Fire Department requiring staffing this year. He said there are a number of requests this years that need funding and the \$200,000 amount may also need to be reduced.

5. Consideration of Additional Requests

Mr. DeMoura stated that if this Committee agrees, it would be a favorable time to adjourn into executive session because the additional requests have already been considered and discussed; therefore #5 has been addressed. He stated that since items have been deferred to subcommittee, Budget Committee is unable to address items #6 and #7. He said if Council is willing, they may want to delegate the approval of Revenues and Expenditures to the Finance Committee with the idea that Fire Committee would meet first and discuss the issues before their committee, provide that recommendation to the Finance Committee who is handling Community Investment and other items. He stated that Finance Committee could make the final approval and staff could prepare the budget document for the Council meeting.

Ms. Whitley stated that she would like to request consideration for an additional request. She said there was already a funding line item for the second phase of Waterfront Park and said that Mr. Santos raised the issue of a dog park and she raised the concept of a splash pad and said she believes these items were included in the design but are not currently funded.

Mr. DeMoura responded in the affirmative. He stated that what is presently there is Phase One of the Memorial Waterfront Park. He said Phase Two has been conceptually designed, which has three segments. He said one is the expansion of the pier, the second is what could be a restaurant building and other items, and Phase Three is the area beyond Harry Hallman Boulevard, which includes the potential splash and dog park. He said the permits are in hand, with one more permit to be approved, prior to bidding out for the expansion of the pier. He said the budget for that portion is \$6 million dollars. He said he does not know if that budget is sufficient and will not know until it is bid. He said Council could move those two items (splash pad and dog park), into the first portion of Phase Two, if there is funding. He said additional funding may not have to be added and Council may re-prioritize based on a prior Council vote of what is included in that first segment.

Ms. Whitley stated that if this bid comes out well under \$6 million dollars, Council could then fund these other projects.

Mayor Haynie said for clarification, was this all TIF money.

Mr. DeMoura stated that a major portion of it is. He said if there is funding available, he then requests direction from Council as to what elements they would like to include.

Mr. Bustos asked Mr. DeMoura if this means Council would vote to reprioritize the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. DeMoura stated that the Memorial Waterfront Park project is one of the larger items in the CIP. He said the first segment is funded and what Council would be doing is adding two smaller elements to the largest segment. He said it is technically an adjustment to the plan but is a de minimis type adjustment when it relates to the size of the capital plan.

He said you would simply be adding one or two elements to a large project and only if funding was available. He said what he is committed to do is, if the bid comes under budget and there is funding available, to bring it back first to Recreation Committee, which would then go to full Council to amend the Capital Plan.

Mr. Cunnane stated that the \$6 million dollars goes to one Committee, then back to Council; however, for an increase in Fire staffing, it must go to Fire Committee, Finance Committee and then back to Town Council. Why?

Mr. DeMoura stated that the Capital Plan has been seen, adopted and reviewed by full Council and have been in front of full Council many times.

Ms. Landing stated that the \$500,000 that was set aside for Lucy Beckham Performing Arts Center, which was voted not to fund. She said there was also the idea of conducting a study for the Arts in the amount of \$50,000. She said then there is a request that will go to Finance regarding a Performing Arts Center, when there is a study that will indicate what is needed in Mount Pleasant for the Arts. She asked how these three items are reconciled.

Mayor Haynie stated he agrees, because when he was thinking about the Performing Arts Center, he also remembered that Council is funding a study on the Arts in Mount Pleasant. He stated that agenda items #6 and #7 will then go through Finance Committee.

6. Approval of Revenues

[Will be addressed in Finance Committee]

7. Approval of Expenditures

[Will be addressed in Finance Committee]

8. Executive Session

Ms. Landing moved to adjourn into executive session; seconded by Mr. Owens. All present voted in favor.

Committee adjourned into executive session at 1:57 p.m.

Committee reconvened at 2:40 p.m. and Mayor Haynie stated that no votes or action were taken.

a. Personnel matter

9. Post executive session

Committee may take action on any item listed on an executive session agenda or discussed in an executive session during a properly noticed meeting.

Mr. Bustos made a motion that we authorize the Town Attorney to modify the Town Administrator's contract, as was discussed, to be brought back to Town Council for approval; seconded by Ms. Landing. All present voted in favor.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Ashe
April 18, 2018