

City Council
WORK SESSION
December 8, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Vice Mayor Kier, Council Members Curren, Harrington, Holmes, Oakes and Obenschain.

Council Member Absent: Mayor Dull.

The Vice Mayor called the work session of City Council to order. The invocation/moment of silence was given by Mr. Holmes.

1. Consideration of Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas

Consistent with Procedural Memorandum No. 3, amended by Council at its organization meeting on July 1, 2016, the agendas were presented for Council consideration.

Dr. Harrington moved to approve the Work Session and the Regular Meeting agendas as presented.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Oakes and carried unanimously.

2. Discussion of 2017 Legislative Program

A revised draft legislative program for 2017 was presented for Council's consideration, following Council discussion at its meeting in November. Mr. Steve Owen, City Manager, reviewed the revisions including a more generalized statement in opposition to exemptions from the stormwater utility fee and the addition of the Staunton City Schools' proposal concerning sales and use tax revenue distribution.

Once adopted, the program will be transmitted to the Governor, local General Assembly members, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties and Virginia First Cities.

3. FY2016 End of Year Financial Analysis

Mr. Owen began by reviewing the additions to this year's audit report. Ms. Jeanne Colvin, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of FY2016 General Fund revenues and expenditures, reserves and recommendations for the use of fund balance.

4. Discussion of an Ordinance Amending the FY2017 Budget

The first budget amendment for fiscal year 2017 was prepared for review and discussion. The total budget amendment equals \$6,832,838. Of that amount \$4,726,954 is the total City amendment and \$2,105,884 is the total School Board amendment.

5. Discussion of Comcast Franchise Agreement

Mr. Greg Cook, Chair of the Cable Television Commission, explained that in January 2002, the City entered into a non-exclusive franchise agreement with Comcast to construct, operate and maintain a broadband cable communications system in the City. The Agreement had an initial 10-year term, which was extended for an additional five years when Comcast exercised its right of extension in 2012. The term of the current agreement will expire early in 2017.

The Cable Television Commission is currently reviewing a newly proposed franchise agreement with Comcast. As part of the review process, the Commission has recommended that Council conduct a public hearing in January to obtain public input on Comcast's performance during the term of the current agreement. Such input will inform the Commission and City staff as the new agreement is finalized.

The Commission expects to have a new agreement ready for the franchise process required under the state code early in 2017.

The work session adjourned at 7:05 p.m.


Linda L. Little, CMC
Clerk of Council