

The Washington City Council met in a continued session on Thursday, May 7, 2007 at the Municipal Building at 4:30 p.m. Present were: Judy Jennette, Mayor; Darwin Woolard, Mayor Pro tem; Richard Brooks, Councilman; Archie Jennings, Councilman; Ed Gibson, Councilman; Mickey Gahagan, Councilman; James Smith, City Manager; and Rita A. Thompson, City Clerk.

Also present were: Carol Williams, Finance Director; Jimmy Davis, Fire Chief; Bobby Roberson, Community Development Planning Director; Allen Lewis, Public Works Director; Gloria Moore, Interim Library Director; Sandy Blizzard and Gerald Galloway, of the Washington Police Department; and Susan Hodges, Human Resources Director; and Mike Voss, of the Washington Daily News.

Mayor Jennette called the meeting to order and Councilman Gibson delivered the invocation.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

On motion of Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman Gahagan, Council unanimously agreed to discuss the Washington High School Science Olympiad.

On motion of Councilman Gahagan, seconded by Councilman Jennings, Council unanimously agreed to appropriate \$2,500 to the Washington High School Olympiad.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Police Department

Council reviewed the Police Department proposed budget. A discussion was held on excessive false alarms. The City Clerk will check the ordinance and see what the charge is. Also, Council held a lengthy discussion on 911 services and the County taking it over. Interim Police Chief Galloway explained to Council that giving up the 911 services will not save the city money. We lose \$70,000 and possibly \$90,000 more. We would get \$90,000 if we go wireless certified, based on population. You still have non-emergency calls and have to have staff in the Police Department to handle walk-ins. Mayor Jennette stated we might have to come back to this.

Fire Department

Council reviewed the Fire Department budgets with Chief Jimmy Davis. No funds have been included for the new Fire Station, which is 330 days from completion. It will take approximately \$6,500 additional funding to fund the station for three months if they have to for water, telephone, etc.

Council took a break at 6:00 p.m. and reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

Planning Department

Council reviewed the Planning Department budget. Grants was the main discussion.

Brown Library

Council reviewed the Brown Library Budget, an increase for building and maintenance for trim and window casings on the exterior of the building. Funds are not included the fix the parapet walls around the leaking roof. Council discussed getting an architect to look at all city buildings. They also discussed the need to limit the number of books that can be checked out. Overdue fees is \$15,307.32. They suggested asking the City Attorney if their names can be published in the paper.

Councilman Jennings stated that the Council has to work with the Friends of the Library to have more fundraisers. He asked that this be on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Public Works Department

Council discussed the bad state of the elevator which would cost \$160,000 that is not included in the budget. Projects like this could be combined with others. Mr. Smith will see if there is a person in the state who will come and look at issues like this at no charge, possibly to combine in an installment note. The paving of Pamlico Street need to be added in the budget (\$130,000).

On motion of Councilman Gahagan, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Woolard, Council unanimously adjourned the meeting.

**Rita A. Thompson, CMC
City Clerk**