

**TOWN OF STEELE**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

**WORK SESSION**

**APRIL 3, 2023**

The Town Council of the Town of Steele, Alabama, met in a scheduled Work Session at 6:30 PM on Monday, April 3, 2023 at the Steele Community Center, following publication and posting pursuant to Alabama Law. The following members were present:

Nancy Miller-Borg, Councilmember

Rick Barnes, Councilmember

Michael Stevens, Councilmember

Philip Gleason Jr., Councilmember

Deborah Banks, Councilmember

Absent: Mayor Roger Adams

**Debt Strategy:** Councilmember Barnes stated that he would like to budget the next fiscal year without paying any interest. He stated that the Town is over budget in revenue receipts so far this year.

**Cost of Living Increase:** Councilmember Barnes stated that he has run the numbers and right now, the Town is within 5% of Fiscal Year 2023 budget figures. Although we do recognize that we are one of the lowest paying municipalities, he feels that we can afford a 5% cost of living raise across the board to every employee. Councilmember Miller-Borg asked when this would happen, to which Councilmember Barnes explained the wage and pay scale would be amended to increase salaries by 5%, then continue through with the 1.5% annual raise at the employee's hire date. He stated that he feels this would have minimal impact overall on the yearly budget.

**Fire Department Staffing:** Councilmember Barnes stated that with anticipated growth in revenue, and knowing that the Town is doing well financially. He doesn't see where two fulltime firefighters can manage the department for very long. He stated that Public Safety is important and feels that it should be a priority to include another full time firefighter on the roster. Chief Martin was present at the meeting and stated that Ashville and Steele are the only paid departments on the northern end of St. Clair County. Councilmember Banks stated that this may be something to include in the next Fiscal Year Budget.

**Infrastructure expansion:** Councilmember Barnes stated that there was a meeting this Thursday regarding broadband expansion in St. Clair County. There was discussion regarding the fact that there is no wireless internet on the Steele Station Rd. side of the interstate. The Council also discussed if anyone had any connections to Spectrum, Comcast, etc.

**Park Improvements:** Mrs. Marie Ellis, who is a resident of Steele and came to a Council

**The Chandler Mountain Fire / EMS contract is up for renewal. Councilmember Barnes made a motion to approve renewing this contract, seconded by Councilmember Gleason Jr. and approved by the Town Council as follows:**

**Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Stevens, and Gleason Jr.**  
**Nays: None**

**Councilmember Barnes made a motion to approve authorizing the Mayor to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund to a Certificate of Deposit. The Motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens and approved by the Town Council as follows:**

**Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Stevens, and Gleason Jr.**  
**Nays: None**

**Councilmember Barnes made a motion to approve the Town Clerk attending Clerk Training via zoom May 3-5<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Councilmember Miller-Borg and approved by the Town Council as follows:**

**Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Stevens, and Gleason Jr.**  
**Nays: None**

**Councilmember Barnes made a motion to approve the Town Clerk attending Clerk Training at Point Clear, AL in June. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gleason Jr. and approved by the Town Council as follows:**

**Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Stevens, and Gleason Jr.**  
**Nays: None**

**Councilmember Barnes made a motion to surplus the two Hummers, seconded by Councilmember Gleason Jr. and approved by the Town Council as follows:**

**Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Stevens, and Gleason Jr.**  
**Nays: None**

**Councilmember Miller-Borg made a motion to purchase more mulch for the playground, seconded by Councilmember Barnes and approved by the Town Council as follows:**

**Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Stevens, and Gleason Jr.**  
**Nays: None**

**Councilmember Barnes stated that a Council Work Session is scheduled for April 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM.**

**Councilmember Barnes made a motion to amend the wage and pay scale setting the Sr. Director's pay to \$10.25 per hour effective April 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Miller-Borg and approved by the Town Council as follows:**

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**July 4<sup>th</sup> Event:** Councilmember Gleason stated that the event will be held on Saturday, July 1, 2023. He stated that he has secured Chinitos food truck. It was discussed that the Town could pass a Resolution to not require that food trucks purchase a business license when they are invited into an event that the Town is holding. Discussion was had regarding the tent, band, inflatables, car show, etc.

**AED's:** (Automated External Defibrillator) Councilmember Miller-Borg asked what the status of acquiring AEDs is. Chief Martin stated that Jason Green is working on getting AED's at a reasonable cost. It was discussed that there should be one in the Community Center, ballfield, Nutrition Center, and Town Hall. They are priced at approximately \$1,000 - \$1,500 each.

There was discussion had regarding purchasing additional flock cameras.

With there being no further business to come before this Work Session meeting of the Town Council, Councilmember Barnes made a motion to adjourn. Adjourned at 7:40 PM.

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**Nancy Miller-Borg, Mayor Pro-Tempe**

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**Town Clerk: Donna Ambrosius**