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# Council Special Called September 18, 2023

**DATE AND TIME:** Monday, September 18, 2023, Immediately Following the 5:00pm Work Session

**Members Present:**

Mayor Mike Fuesser  
Mayor Pro Tem Ed Brown  
Councilmember Marion Ramsey  
Councilmember Stephanie Jarrett

Councilmember Charles Brewer  
Councilmember Kellie Harrold  
Councilmember Matt Hickey

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

City Manager Dalton Pierce  
Municipal Clerk Amy Craig  
Finance Director Jeff Wilkins  
Utilities Director Ben Wright  
Police Chief Brian Trail

Human Resources Director Sarah Ramirez  
Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas  
Planning Director David Breakfield  
Fire Chief Mike Regal

**Participants:**

**Others Present:**

(See Sign-in Sheet)

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**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fuesser

- Mayor Fuesser called the meeting to order at 5:18pm

**2. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**2.1 Second Reading Ordinance 23-701 FY 23-24 Budget**

Cynthia Bradford stated that under the umbrella of recreation, we have an opportunity to remain dynamic and be open to the needs of those that have been historically unheard and underserved. The southeast quadrant of York are four parks that each in a state of neglect, which includes Wooded Valley, New Street Park, Green Street Park, and Jefferson Field. Lack of maintenance has caused each of these to be underutilized. With \$325,000 earmarked, Ms. Bradford wishes to see the funds allocated towards a larger park space with a broader scope of kids of all ages and abilities, including adults to engage in outdoor activities with gathering spaces, safe walking paths. The Strategic Plan recommends strategizing for the redevelopment of Pinckney Street, which fulfills multiple focus areas that includes innovative land use practices, enhanced opportunities for community engagement, and promote volunteerism. The main point is to stress upon Council that the \$325,000 spent on a .4acre park is not what the community wants. The community wishes to see the funding allocated towards a bigger park in the Pinckney Street area, which would more appropriately meet the needs of the community.

Cera Crawford Bay requests that Council consider the needs of her community, that will affect the children now and in the future. She stated that the citizens request the FY23-24 Budget be amended to reflect the \$325,000 going towards the community's larger needs. The amendment will allow for the children in the community to receive better socialization skills and behavior, which will be an asset to the City of York. She would like for Council to schedule a community

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meeting to allow the community to make their voices heard. She wishes to see us all united and give the children what they request. Ms. Bay provided a petition with over 300 signatures, which was handed to Municipal Clerk Amy Craig.

Holly Starnes read excerpts from the Strategic Plan. She stated that the community does not feel that they are a part of the process that will define who they are, and they are asking for that opportunity. Community priorities are shifting and if the City is building something community-oriented then reallocating the funds should be considered. The Greens Street Park is nearly unwalkable.

Verimel Moore stated that Green Street basketball court is not big enough to be a park. No one utilizes the park as a basketball court and what is being considered for the community is best for the community.

Shirley Moore mentioned the 2017 study that a supplementary committee performed. The results of strengths, deficits of parks assessed, were shared with the City, but there was no follow-up. The parks updated were not in the black community. She further stated that it is disheartening to be in York, but not a part of York. She requested extensive consideration of their concern, acknowledgement that they are members of the community, their concerns are more than important to them. This situation has come full circle from a study that was done in 2017.

### 2.2 Second Reading Ordinance 23-702 FY23-24 Rates & Fees

*\*\*No public comments were made.\*\**

## 3. OLD BUSINESS

### 3.1 Second Reading Ordinance 23-701 FY23-24 Budget

Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve Second Reading Ordinance 23-701 FY23-24 Budget, which was Seconded by Councilmember Brewer. Council stated that there is time to discuss the allocation of funds and hear the needs of the community as Covid deterred discussions in the past. Council inquired if an amendment can be made to allocate the funds to “park.” City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that the funding is coming from Impact Fees, which is recreation, which means the name of a line item can always be changed. He further stated the requirements of the Impact Fees being they must be used in 3-5 years and utilized for complete projects, not piece milled. Council stated that the school district should be involved due to the field belonging to them. Council’s goal is to get the community involved, especially since Covid made their plans fall apart. They understand that constituents are feeling left out and Council would like to involve them in the process. With no other Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

### 3.2 Second Reading Ordinance 23-702 FY23-24 Rates & Fees

Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to approve Second Reading Ordinance 23-702 FY23-24 Rates & Fees, which was Seconded by Councilmember Hickey. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to exit Special Called and enter into Executive Session, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was passed unanimously.

## 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

### 4.1 Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements

### 4.2 Discussion of Personnel Matters Related to the City Manager

## 5. UPON RETURNING TO OPEN SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to exit Executive Session and enter into open session, which was Seconded by Councilmember Jarrett. With no Discussion, the Motion was passed unanimously.

*\*\*No action was taken.\*\**

### 6. ADJOURN

Councilmember Brewer made a Motion to Adjourn, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was passed unanimously. The meeting Adjourned at 6:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Craig  
Municipal Clerk