

Funding Committee Unapproved Minutes 6/5/2025

Members Present: Lisa Meyer, Jon Martin, Jack Moseley, Butch Higginbotham, Denecia Ramsey, Scott Staples, Jim Erwin, Phillip Partain

Staff Present: Mayor Treat, Ted Taylor, Jordan Reynolds, Moriah Winkel, Rebecca Kidder

Guests Present: Peter Cunningham & Chera Moore

Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Chairperson Meyer

Approval of Minutes-May 20, 2025 Meeting - Motion by Staples, second by Ramsey

Public Comments

- Chera Moore expressed her appreciation to the committee and staff for their hard work.

New Business

- **Stormwater Fee Structure - Phase 2**
 - Mayor Treat provided an overview of the meeting and history of the current stormwater fee structure:
 - Phase 1 has been in place for several years, charging \$3/month for residential and \$6/month for commercial properties.
 - Phase 2 utilizes WilDan data to implement a gradual roll-out of revised fees.
 - Ted Taylor presented updated data:
 - A detailed spreadsheet was reviewed showing proposed fees for each business.
 - Adjustments include the addition of senior citizens into the fee model and planning for operational funding and staffing.
 - Schools and churches will see higher fees due to impervious surface area; schools have already been informed.
 - Example: Adjusted rate for a school from \$2,400/month down to \$600/month was modeled.
 - The committee will also assist in prioritizing early stormwater projects.
 - Phase 2 implementation would take place over a 4-year timeline.
 - Committee Discussion:

- Scott Staples asked if staffing hires would be phased in over 4 years—Ted confirmed.
- Scott asked if the model identifies immediate projects—Ted confirmed some are included based on total revenue projections.
- The amended model differs from WilDan's by adding a senior citizen pay structure.
 - Current residential users would increase from \$3 to \$4.25.
 - Seniors, currently exempt, would begin at \$4.25.
 - Lisa Meyer asked if seniors could be phased in starting at \$3.
- Denecia Ramsey asked about gradually increasing to \$7 by 2029 for residential and also phasing in commercial rates.
 - Scott Staples cautioned that overcomplicating the explanation may lead to public confusion. He recommended connecting fees to visible project outcomes.
 - Lisa Meyer inquired about 3-month rate increments for businesses, previously suggested by Shane Knight. Ted confirmed the model includes this flexibility.
 - Ted reviewed rate projections based on business square footage.
 - Mayor Treat noted a built-in checkpoint in 2029 to assess the success of the model and make adjustments as needed.
 - Lisa emphasized that rate studies will be conducted every 5 years.
 - Lisa asked how the projected \$5 million in revenue would be used.
 - Ted clarified: bond funds are restricted to projects only. Operational costs and staffing will be covered through the general budget.
- Outreach and Timeline:
 - Mayor Treat stated that once the committee makes a recommendation to City Council, it will go through three readings.
 - During that time, the City will conduct outreach to educate businesses and residents.
 - Treat reiterated the importance of transparency and setting a precedent for ongoing review every 5 years—or sooner if needed.
- **Special Topics: Churches & Schools**
 - Ted provided an example of First Southern Church's projected rate—approximately \$380/month—based on impervious surface.

- Peter Cunningham, Pastor at First Southern, noted that such a fee would be a challenge for churches and nonprofits.
- Lisa asked what churches and schools currently pay—Ted confirmed a flat \$6/month.
- Ted stated that excluding churches and schools would shift a burden of approximately \$8,000/month to other users.
- Jim Erwin asked what the impact would be if schools and churches were excluded.
- Jon Martin estimated that it would result in a \$150/month increase for businesses or a \$1/month increase for residential users.
- Ted asked if churches would be open to some fee—Peter responded yes, though determining the amount would be difficult due to fluctuating attendance.
- Mayor Treat requested that church leaders assist in setting up a meeting between pastors and city officials to discuss the proposed fee model.
- Jim Erwin asked what structure City Council would likely approve—Mayor Treat said it would depend on public input.
- Ted will email the commercial property rate spreadsheet to the committee for further review.
- Treat noted outreach conversations will begin soon with the Chamber and local businesses.

Adjournment: 7:06 motion by Staples, 2nd by Higginbotham

Next meeting: July 3 at 6:00 PM in Conference Room