



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL

# MINUTES

Council Chambers, 715 Princess Anne Street  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

HON. MARY KATHERINE GREENLAW, MAYOR  
HON. CHARLIE L. FRYE, JR., VICE -MAYOR, WARD FOUR  
HON. KERRY P. DEVINE, AT-LARGE  
HON. MATTHEW J. KELLY, AT-LARGE  
HON. JASON N. GRAHAM, WARD ONE  
HON. JONATHAN A. GERLACH, WARD TWO  
HON. DR. TIMOTHY P. DUFFY, WARD THREE

## Work Session

April 18, 2023

### Fiscal Year 2024 Recommended Budget

**The Council** of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia held a work session on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Council Present.** Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Presiding. Vice-Mayor Charlie L. Frye, Jr. Councilors Kerry P. Devine, Timothy P. Duffy, Jonathan A. Gerlach, Jason N. Graham, and Matthew J. Kelly.

**Also Present.** City Manager Timothy J. Baroody, Assistant City Manager Mark Whitley, Assistant City Manager David Brown, City Attorney Kathleen Dooley, Finance Director Robyn Shugart, Assistant Director of Finance Richard Lawrence, Budget Analyst Donna Leahy, Fire Chief Mike Jones and Clerk of Council Tonya B. Lacey.

**Disclosures.** Councilor Duffy disclosed that he was employed by the Fredericksburg School System and he could participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

Vice-Mayor Frye disclosed that his spouse was employed by the Fredericksburg School System and he could participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

**Fiscal Year 2024 Recommended Budget.** Finance Director Shugart presented a PowerPoint presentation and she reviewed the Agenda, FY2024 Budget at a Glance Personal Property Update, Proposed Propositions, and Upcoming Meeting Schedule. (See Attachment I for more information).

Councilor Graham asked if City Council had the authority to tax vehicles by weight because larger vehicles put a strain on the roads and results in the higher need of maintenance on roads. Ms. Shugart stated that the normalizing of the rate was done by Governor Youngkin during the pandemic because of the increase in values and that law will go away if it is not

renewed or changed in 2025. She was not sure about the legality of the request but vehicles are categorized by gross weight and she said that may be a State Code question.

Councilor Kelly stated that he does not mind holding some money in reserve for schools but he said vast majority of the current debt service the City hold was for school related projects. He said there was supposed to be a conversation with the schools about shared services and it has not occurred yet. He said there needs to be more done to be true partners with shared services. He was concerned with putting the \$500,000 on the table for the schools. The commitments the City Council has made for schools has been phenomenal and the School Board needs to do more.

Councilor Kelly said he understands the concerns with Thurman Brisben but Stafford was not going to increase their funding and Spotsylvania was base lining there funding. He added that Spotsylvania has never met their obligations related to homelessness. The City has taken the lead on housing for the region and it is in the least financial position to do these things and it that should be considered when taking on any new initiatives. He said he does not disagree with the need or the initiative but most time it comes back on the City to step up.

Councilor Duffy said he appreciates that the City can support schools as they try to provide contracts. He noted the importance in keeping talent. He said it will pay dividends to the City.

Mayor Greenlaw stated that the General Assembly had been derelict in duty as well as unconscionable that there was not a budget and school systems and cities have to pass budget on a hope and a prayer that the funds will be there. She noted how difficult this was that the General Assembly was passing a budget on the backs of localities. She said she would suggest putting the funds up for the schools to get the contracts out.

Councilor Graham said he had spoken with someone and who works for Stafford and he said Stafford was looking at the City to poach its teachers. He said this must be taken seriously, he was reluctantly in support of putting the funds aside. He was also in support of funding the medic position for half a year with the reminder of the \$50,627.

Councilor Gerlach said he would like to wait until after the public hearing before making any decisions on the propositions.

Councilor Devine said she was comfortable with the \$484,000 for schools at this time because it is contract season and this is the only way to hang on to teachers and attract others.

She also said she would like to wait until after the public hearing to make any decisions on the propositions.

Councilor Kelly said he was not against giving the schools the funding, but he would like to know what they are willing to do to make this happen. He said the City has gone overboard for schools and they need to do something. Regarding the homeless funding he was willing to do both the Thurman Brisben Center and Micah Ministries because they are both deserving of the support. He said supporting Sister City was not a problem but he suggests that the funds be spent on activities while the groups are in the City and not for events.

Mayor Greenlaw agreed and said the City needs to think about how it wants to handle its Sister Cities. She noted how valuable they are to the City.

Vice- Mayor Frye said he was in support to protect the underserved and to take care of our staff and first responders. He said he does not want to see City employees leave the City. He was appreciative of the dedicated employees. He stated that with the crime that's going on in the City they must take care of staff and he was not in favor of city staff leaving.

Mr. Baroody recapped what he heard and the propositions include sources for Micah, Thurman Brisben, a medic position as well as Sister City and separately the use of fund balance for school's shortfall which can be found in the unassigned fund balance.

Mayor Greenlaw said she appreciate staff for working with the Council and finding funding for propositions and for making the budget readable.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before the Council at this time. Mayor Greenlaw declared the session officially adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

**APPROVED**  
**10-24-23**



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**Tonya B. Lacey, MMC**  
**Clerk of Council**  
**City of Fredericksburg**