



SUFFOLK CITY COUNCIL

**ELECTRONIC EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT MEETING
MAY 6, 2020**

**Public Comments
Received on the
Proposed Operating
and Capital Budget
FY2020-2021**

Randah Gaitan

From: Timothy J. Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:36 PM
To: 2021budget
Subject: Budget comments review

Sent from my iPhone

Randah Gaitan

From: Jason Fawcett <erivercoo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:51 AM
To: 2021budget
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Piss poor budget proposal

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Lots of fat in this first draft might want to go back to the drawing board..... I can find about 3-5 million in this "first draft" that is fraud, waste, and abuse . Try again Really disappointed in council, and staff .

Park and Rec 2 million- who cares about upgrading a pool in this time – delay it a year no big deal

Who goes to the library right now when no one can leave their homes – just push it out a year or two , I'm really taken back my this no one goes to the library anymore we have the internet its 2020 .

Playgrounds can wait -300k

Why are city employees still driving take home cars to hickory and outside the city ? why not cut that

Is the city hedging fuel cost ? lost fuel pricing seen in a long time

Still see several departments driving Trucks and SUV's around that aren't concurrent for the work at hand they're performing ?

No hybrid cars , still see the city fleet manager is by what he wants not what the best value -huge fraud and waste in these department

Heard the commit several times that these are all small items that are a drop in the bucket last time I checked if you drop enough loose change in a bucket its gets heavier.

Piss poor budget if you ask me and I know how much taxes I pay in this city personally and professional.

We should provide everything Police and Fire need and the short staffing and inadequate pay continues in these departments .

City council should take a long hard look at what's in front of them, I believe we have one of the best cities and best managers in the country however this is the worst work I've seen in along time out of that office. I've not lost confidence in that group "yet" there is still some work to be done here and several council members should get up off there lazy humps and understand what's in front of them. 120 days ago our economy was cooking and cooking well now in a short matter of time it has begun to come to a halt very abruptly and this pinch will be felt for the entire 2020 year and for hopefully only trickle into 2021 but we have to be prepared it that isn't the case. I don't like getting to far into the weeds normal I look at the budgets year to year and think "solid effort" and the school system is still "nuts" but this one has left a sting and with all the extra time on folks hands lots are watching , reading, and paying attention to this process this year more than ever. Don't believe me just push the green button as you always do and let it fly and come November you will not have any button anymore . Take a strong look at this again you have countless areas and room

for improvement in this process this year. No one will fault you for just saying we will delay this or that for a year or so just to give ourselves a safety net and not ask our citizens to pay more .

Jason Fawcett
757-285-5456
Fawcett Properties LLC
Fawcett Family Foundation

Randah Gaitan

From: Jessica Rockwell <JRockwell@wtfreeclinic.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:38 PM
To: 2021budget
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WTFC
Attachments: Western Tidewater Free Clinic 2020-2021 Suffolk Budget Presentation.docx

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the **City of Suffolk**. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and you know the content is safe.

Hello!

I received an email from Charles Meek informing us to submit via email anything we wanted to say at the upcoming budget meeting. We would normally come speak of course, but with the uncertainty lying ahead we understand that we cannot. I have attached what we would have come to let you all know and thank you for everything you have done for the Clinic. Please let me know if there is anything else you will need.

Thank you,

Jessica Rockwell

Development Coordinator

[Western Tidewater Free Clinic](#)

Email jrockwell@wtfreeclinic.org

Phone 757.923.1060 ext 7012 ● Fax 757.923.1068

Address 2019 Meade Parkway, Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Website www.wtfreeclinic.org



Support us!



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The mission of Western Tidewater Free Clinic is to provide high-quality, non-emergency health care to the residents of Western Tidewater who cannot otherwise afford it.

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We want to thank you for your past support and for your consideration of our 2020-2021 budget request.

We are extremely grateful the City of Suffolk's financial investment in Western Tidewater Free Clinic since 2007 has created a health home for thousands of patients in need. With community partnerships like yours, the Clinic has been able to provide care to more than 5,800 unduplicated patients through more than 168,000 on-site visits. These patients have received free medications with a retail value of more than \$49.7 million.

In 2019, once again WTFC experienced a high patient volume, serving 1,403 distinct patients in 13,502 total visits, including 595 dental patients in 1,999 dental appointments. **Sixty percent (60%) of these patients were Suffolk residents, representing 837 people served in 7,929 visits, including 1 City of Suffolk employees and 8 City of Suffolk Public School employees.**

Your support makes it possible for us to provide these chronically and often critically ill patients with lifesaving, comprehensive, coordinated care through the many services offered onsite at WTFC, including medical, dental, vision, pharmacy, and mental health, and through our specialty referral partnership network.

The Clinic would not exist without our volunteers, donors, community partnerships and staff. We have approximately 21.1 Fulltime Equivalent Employees (FTEs) and a volunteer base of over 140 volunteers including medical and dental professionals and many administrative volunteers. During 2019, the 7,100 hours donated by volunteers accounted for approximately 3.4 FTEs. Seventy four (74) volunteers reside in Suffolk which includes 9 board members. Our shared goal is to improve the health of our patients and enable them to take care of themselves and their families, keep their jobs and be productive citizens.

During these very challenging times, continued support from the City of Suffolk is critical. As a result of the current Coronavirus pandemic, we have made operational changes, some that have resulted in increased expenses, so we can remain open and continue to provide healthcare to our very high-risk, vulnerable patient population. We simply cannot abandon them and we don't want them in the ER if they don't have to be there. The safety and health of our patients and staff are our highest priority so we have made the following adaptations to honor social distancing, minimize person-to-person contact and decrease clinic exposure:

- We have compressed patient visits into 3 days per week (Tues.-Thur.) and rescheduled non-urgent visits if possible.
- We screen all patients in our front lobby, take an ear temperature and give them a medical mask before entering our waiting area.
- Our nurses are delivering all medication pickups to patients in their vehicle.
- We are conducting telehealth appointments for patients who don't need to be seen face-to-face.

Continued funding from the City of Suffolk would make a huge impact in helping WTFC remain open, pay our staff, put operational adaptations in place for telehealth and continue to provide critical, high-quality healthcare for our patients who need us most right now. We know we will see an influx of new patients as a result of job loss from this pandemic, some of whom have already contacted our eligibility department. We also believe we will experience an increase in both medical and dental services, especially after the community has re-opened from COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration of our 2020-2021 funding request of \$234,000, which would cover the annual cost of care for 195 Suffolk patients through about 2,460 visits. Thanks to our community partnerships, for every \$1 donated to WTFC, we provide more than \$7 in medical services, so the City's investment is fully maximized. Our annual cost of care per patient is about \$1,200, so last year's Clinic cost to serve Suffolk's patients was \$1,004,400.

Again, we thank you for your investment in the mission of Western Tidewater Free Clinic and invite each of you for a tour of the Clinic to see the City's investment at work once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Randah Gaitan

From: Pat <prcnva@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Budget and Strategic Planning
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: City Budget

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the **City of Suffolk**. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and you know the content is safe.

With attachment

HRSD/HRUBS

114 Niblick Cir, Suffolk, VA - 2 Adults

Month	USAGE	Days in BP	Bill Amount	Notes
April		Set up fees	\$10.00	
May				
June	11 CCF / 8228 Gallons	4/2 - 5/20 =49	\$261.97	\$5.35 per day
July	11 CCF / 8228 Gallons	5/21 - 6/18=29	\$255.39	\$8.81 per day
August	7 CCF / 5236 Gallons	6/19 - 7/17=29	\$168.45	\$5.81 per day
Sept	7 CCF / 5236 Gallons	7/18 - 8/19=33	\$172.07	\$5.21 per day
Oct	11 CCF / 8228 Gallons	8/20 - 9/18=30	\$197.88	\$6.60 per day
Nov	9 CCF / 6732 Gallons	9/19 - 10/17=29	\$216.19	\$7.45 per day
Dec	5 CCF / 3740 Gallons	11/19 - 12/16=28	\$124.56	\$4.45 per day
Jan	26 CCF / 19448 Gallons	10/18 - 11/18=32	\$605.68	Mr. Al Moor - Usage reduced from 26 to 10. \$388.12 credit given
Feb	6 CCF / 4488 Gallons	12/17 - 1/21=36	\$150.36	\$4.18 per day
March	2 CCF / 1496 Gallons	1/22 - 2/18=28	\$56.04	\$2.00 per day
April	4 CCF/ 2992 Gallons	2/19 - 3/18=29	\$102.09	\$3.52 per day
May				
	99 CCF/74052 Gallons	388 Days	\$2,320.68	

Thank you

Pat

From: [Pat](#)
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 1:48 PM
To: BudgetOfficer@suffolkva.us <BudgetOfficer@suffolkva.us>
Subject: City Budget

Ms. Tealen Hansen and Team

I am a concern resident of Suffolk, (114 Niblick Cir). I'm sure you are aware the Suffolk has the highest water rates in the region. I have lived in Suffolk for 13 months & this remains a concern since moving in. I have reached out to Suffolk water directly, and they have worked with me because they can not explain the disparity. I was very disturbed when my January bill came in at \$600.00+ with no rhyme or reason. My bill has been as low as \$56 one month & as high as \$605 another. No one can explain why so high or so low, when there have been no changes in the household (2 Adults). The Water department & myself have exhausted all possibilities to no avail. Please see below the analysis of my water usage included below.

In lieu of my concerns & similar billing concerns of other Suffolk neighbors I am reaching out to you regarding the proposed water/sewage/and trash rate increases, published in the Suffolk News Herald on 4/15 and 4/17. The inconsistent & outrageous water bills each month must first be addressed, but more importantly not increased! Couple this with our current national COVID-19 situation and with quite a few on furlough and NO PAY increases, it is my hope, desire and request to freeze the budget to the current budget. Suffolk residents don't have jobs, can't meet mortgage, water, gas and other bills right now? Things won't be better come July 1 even if this COVID-19 is over. Suffolk residents can't recover those lost wages that fast. This will afford the Suffolk City Council time to address the current concerns.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Thank you

Pat

Randah Gaitan

From: Cheryl Gainer <tgshadow1993@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Budget and Strategic Planning
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rate Increases

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the **City of Suffolk**. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and you know the content is safe.

o: City Councilmembers of Suffolk, VA

Subject: Water Bill/Sewage and Trash Fees Increase

Good day to all,

My name is Cheryl Gainer and I have been a resident of Suffolk, VA for 20+ years. Over those years, I have seen some great things happen to this area; while there is always room for improvement, I feel that now is the time to reconsider a motion that is on the table.

The current situation due to this virus has impacted a lot of constituents from the Suffolk, VA area. We voted for our councilmembers to be at the table to have our best interest at heart. If anyone on the council is proposing to vote "yes" on the increase for the Water/Sewage/and Trash bill, then you will be doing a great disservice to the people of Suffolk.

Many of the residents, do not have income due to losing jobs and the little money given from the Federal government only helps in a small realm. We are thankful for it; however, keep it mind that the children out of school and the present realm of our nature has been disturbed in a way that no one could ever imagine.

I am pleading with all my councilmembers of Suffolk, VA to postpone the tabled agenda of increases this fee to a much later date when the economy and the city has had a chance to rebound. People are already worried about keeping food on the table and a roof over their head and paying their bills. This should not be something that has to happen right now. Many of the council members, pay have not been affected as your constituents, please re-examined your proposed plan and vote to not table this or raise any taxes or fees.

I look forward to hearing that my councilmembers have heard my cries and will make the right decisions and let this item “die” for now. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Gainer

Cheryl D.
Suffolk resident

Randah Gaitan

From: Maria Davenport <mlawsondavenport@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:15 PM
To: 2021budget
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for City Council Meeting May 6th

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the **City of Suffolk**. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and you know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

My name is Maria Lawson-Davenport and I reside at 303 Silver Poplar Ct, Suffolk, VA 23435. I believe that in the current pandemic it would be unwise to increase the water and sewage rates for the city of Suffolk. While I understand the need to increase revenue, the \$4.15 increase in water is not acceptable given the current water rates being unpredictable and unclear for more citizens. Additionally, I believe the refuse collection fee increase is also not needed. We are still unclear how the recycling program will continue after June and an increase is not warranted at this time. I strongly support whatever funding increases can be provided to the Suffolk Public Schools System and community service organizations.

Thank you.

Maria L. Lawson-Davenport
mlawsondavenport@gmail.com

Randah Gaitan

From: Omm Mck <omm1999@aim.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 1:07 PM
To: 2021budget
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Route 17 Taxing District

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the **City of Suffolk**. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and you know the content is safe.

Hello,

Being that the route 17/ business district is almost complete and businesses have moved into the area, will our (the folks living in the RT 17 Taxing District) taxes go back to the normal property tax rate of the rest of Suffolk? If not this year, is there an estimated year?

If there is no sunset clause or plans to bring the taxes back to the normal rate, have there been any discussions to make the RT 17 District tax rate city wide?

Finally, has there been an audit or is there public info available for where the funds generated from the special tax rate were spent so the public can verify the funds were only used in that district?

Thank you for your time.

Randah Gaitan

From: rivershoreshire@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:47 PM
To: 2021budget
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Proposed Budget

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the **City of Suffolk**. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and you know the content is safe.

As a 16 year resident of Suffolk I would like to submit the following comments to the Proposed Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Would you please share them with all concerned parties?

After reviewing the budget, I couldn't help but notice that quite a lot of money is going to projects in and around downtown Suffolk, yet there is nothing mentioned regarding steps to preserve and protect the commercial oyster beds, nor to address the serious water quality issues in our waterways (except of course for the dredging of Bennett's Creek).

This is of great concern for me and my neighbors.

Many of our neighbors are watermen who make their living and contribute to our city's economy from the Chuckatuck Creek, Bennett's Creek, Nansemond River and the James River. Other neighbors enjoy sport fishing and crabbing in these same waters.

Surely this deserves the city's focused efforts to protect and maintain these valuable endangered natural resources.

I also noticed that nothing has been allocated to resolve the traffic bottleneck on the Crittenden peninsula.

Despite a Green Infrastructure Study, the City has not instituted recommendations in current roadway and city development.

There is an equal focus on developing Crittenden Rd/ US Rt 17. This is on a road not eligible for passing lanes. That project was due for "Public Feedback" in March. COVID19 delayed.

A Traffic Impact Analysis and Eclipse Drive US Rt 17 Study are absent, despite speeding and increased traffic on US Rt 17, by design of City and regional planners.

It may not be in this budget, but funding can be considered now and moving forward under Transportation and Public Safety.

With all of the recent growth and building in Northern Suffolk, this main roadway has been subjected to increased traffic, often resulting in crippling traffic jams which slow emergency vehicle response times as well as regular use.

Yet, I did not find a budget line to address this ever worsening situation.

Nor is there a budget line, that I can find, for a Stormwater Fee Mitigation program.

Yet, the Stormwater Fees are due to increase, again.

Norfolk is currently the only municipality in the "Hampton Roads" "region", with a Stormwater Fee Mitigation Plan.

This program is aimed at a decrease in property owner/homeowner fees charged largely by the amount of impervious surface on the property.

Impervious surface: water cannot return to the ground / increases stormwater pollution.

A Stormwater Mitigation Fee allows for credit to the homeowner for installation of:

simple rain barrels to pervious surface driveways, rain gardens, conservation ie native plant gardens, etc.

In the absence of this mitigation program, is also an absence of public education of Stormwater mitigation and impacts.

The City of Suffolk reportedly has no current or future plan for a Stormwater Fee mitigation.

It is time to explore how all other municipalities protect the water quality and aquatic resources.

Thank you for allowing me to contribute to this important discussion.

Sincerely,

Carol Stoecker
9394 Rivershore Drive
Suffolk, VA 23433

Randah Gaitan

From: John Wass <jrwass@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:12 AM
To: 2021budget
Cc: John Wass
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 20-21 Budget Comments

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the City of Suffolk. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and you know the content is safe.

A few comments on the 20-21 Budget...

1-Planning and Community Development requested another Principle Planner and two more building inspectors along with four other positions...and they were not recommended. As fast as Suffolk is growing, there needs to be more staff in this Department to see that the laws and policies are followed. If inspectors are overloaded, the safety a project suffers. One added position should be watching environment issues in development to see that the laws are followed before, during, and after a project is completed. Specifically, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and all of its provisions needs to be followed as a project proceeds to see if there is any wetland encroachment into the designated protected area.

2-The intersection of Bridge Rd and Crittenden Rd. needs to be fast tracked. It was surveyed two years ago. It is a real hazard for motorists lined up waiting for light changes on both roads. The turn lane coming off Bridge Rd onto Crittenden is too short, forcing the turning traffic to dangerously stick out into the speeding traffic lane on Bridge Rd. When traffic is at normal volumes, people cannot safely get out of Cedar Point...crossing the center island and then facing a slow moving dump truck and other cars trying to get around the very slow loaded truck as it just turned and is getting up to speed. As the dump trucks meet on the Crittenden curve just before the intersection, I've seen a lot of near misses with other dump trucks, cars, and even school busses. There we 18 dump trucks crossing that intersection in 15 minutes a few days ago....I sat there and counted them and took pictures.

3-Another dump truck issue...Does Suffolk collect a fee (tax) on each load taken from a pit? If not, there should be to help repair the truck damage to the roads. There are many trucks heading to the pit areas loaded with dirt. If they dump it in a pit, is there a fee for that too? The roads are full of sand and dirt...Godwin Bridge has so much sand dropped on it that my car was sandblasted crossing it on a windy day . My windshield is now pitted. Just today, Bridge Rd had gravel and mud spilled down one lane for a quarter mile heading North from Shoulders Hill Rd.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,

John Wass
1630 Holly Point Lane