

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MARCH 25, 2013  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Stone, Councilmen Campbell, Norris, Calhoun and Thomas.

**ABSENT:** Councilman McCord

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman McClain called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Councilman Campbell gave the invocation.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:**

Chairman McClain stated for the record that the agenda has been posted and notice has been provided to the local news media as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

County Director Bruce Cooley began the workshop stating they had a balanced budget. Capital projects included are; online bill paying for the Treasurer's office, computers for priority one and an oven for the Detention Center. Issues not able to include were employee raises, especially for EMS, Sheriff and E911; who continually lose qualified individuals to surrounding counties, due to less pay in Abbeville County; the replenishing of the fund balance in one, two or three year increments and police cars.

Councilman Norris encouraged Council to provide for increases in EMS, Sheriff and E911. The money needed to continually train personnel could be a big savings; if we were more competitive salary wise with the surrounding counties. Councilman Thomas asked if the Treasurer received online bill paying would he reduce his staff. Councilman Campbell wanted to see the fund balance done over a three (3) year period and an increase in the public safety fee to cover the salary increase. Vice Chairman Stone would like to see E911 moved under the public safety fee and an increase of 2% to employees. Councilman Thomas stated some increase needed to take place and that the citizens needed to be educated on what the county is facing. Councilman Calhoun agreed with all that was said. Councilman Norris stated we know what we need to do, but always end up cutting back as we go through the process; "We need to shoot for the moon and hope to get to the clouds". Chairman McClain wanted to see the fund balance done over a two (2) or three (3) years and an increase in the public safety fee to cover E911. Councilman Campbell wanted to see an employee increase and more fire protection for the rural citizens.

Chairman McClain requested several scenarios be produced with these ideas in mind and brought back to Council at a Budget meeting to be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None


**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further items of discussion; the workshop was unanimously adjourned.

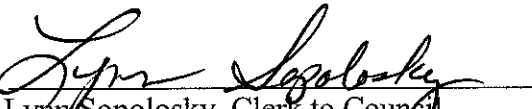
The workshop adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Done this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013

**Abbeville County Council**

By:   
Robert B. McClain, Chairman

ATTEST:

By:   
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council