

Budget

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and reinstating a police cadet program at Forsyth Technical Community College.

City Council Member James Taylor, who chairs the public safety committee, said that there was a community roundtable held recently to address the increased violence. As a result of participants' sug-

gestions, the city increased its funding of the Urban League Summer Youth Employment Program and Successful Outcomes After Release (SOAR) grants.

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The two "no" votes on the budget were City Council Members Robert Clark and Jeff MacIntosh. Clark felt the budget tried to do too much by hiring 30 new positions while raising pay. It tried to do everything while not accomplishing those things as well as it should, he said.

MacIntosh said that he was "very happy" with "long overdue" pay increases for employees. But he said he felt the final budget, which eliminated new two data analyst positions, emphasized "bodies over technology," which makes the city less competitive.

The other City Council members were supportive of the budget, but said it was the first in a series of steps to deal with city worker pay. Among its provisions, it increases the minimum city employee wage to \$11 an hour. The budget also contains a three-year study on city compensation and increasing the minimum wage to \$15 within five years.

"I don't believe that as a city we can talk about dealing with issues of poverty if we don't take the first steps," said City Council Member Derwin Montgomery.

The budget, which increases property taxes by 2 cents per \$100 of proper-

ty value, contains a 2 percent supplemental raise next January for firefighter and police officers. There're additional raises for police officers with five to 15 years of service to address attrition issues.

All other employees receive a 3 percent market adjustment. There're also merit-pay raises of 1.5 per-

cent to 3 percent for all city employees. The city will also be initiating a 401(a) supplemental retirement plan with a 2 percent contribution by the city.

Among the new positions in the budget is the first of three fire safety inspectors to be hired over the next three years that will eliminate the need for firefighters to do fire code inspections. The budget provides money for increased demand for TransAid and Stormwater Management services, funds the change in Winston-Salem Transit Authority bus routes and provides money for major Recreation and Parks maintenance.

It provides more than \$2 million in grants for nonprofits like The Shepherd's Center, Experiment in Self Reliance, HARRY Veterans Services, SciWorks, National Black Theatre Festival and the Arts Council.

During the public comment session, several residents expressed concerns about whether East Winston would get an equitable amount of the budget, saying they felt the area has been neglected in economic development and in its recreation centers. A representative of Whole Man Ministries also appealed to the city for funding. The nonprofit, which houses homeless veterans with its Homes 4 Our Heroes program, was denied its \$25,000 grant request in this budget.

Federal appellate court questions 2013 voter ID

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

While a federal judge in Winston-Salem last April decided that there was nothing about North Carolina's 2013 voter ID law that should keep African-Americans or others from lawfully casting their ballots, a three-judge federal panel Tuesday wasn't so sure.

Based on remarks and questions coming from that panel of the U.S. Fourth Circuit of Appeals, attorneys for the N.C. NAACP "... feel very good about our case and the evidence which we presented," attorney Irving Joyner, chairman of the N.C. NAACP's Legal Redress Committee says. "We clearly hope that the Fourth Circuit will reverse the District Court's [April 25th] decision ... From there, it is on to the [U.S.] Supreme Court, no matter what the outcome is."

Attorneys for the state

claim that the 2013 voting restrictions were necessary to stop voting fraud.

The N.C. NAACP and other plaintiffs appealed to the U.S. Fourth Circuit to fast-track a stay of a federal judge's April 25th ruling dismissing their lawsuit against Gov. Pat McCrory and the Republican-led N.C. General Assembly for their passage of the 2013 voter ID law until all other appeals have been exhausted. The original suit charged that the 2013 law violated the constitutional rights of black voters. The appeal sought to "... keep in place this Court's prior injunction forbidding Defendants from eliminating same-day registration and refusing to count out-of-precinct provisional ballots" in addition to keeping in place the portion of the law that reduced the early voting period by a week.

The voter photo identification requirement began in earnest during the March 15 primary. Unless the fed-

eral appellate court rules otherwise, the voter ID provision will be in force for the Nov. 8 general election as well.

Based on the evidence presented, members of the three-judge panel openly questioned the timing of the Legislature passing the 2013 voter ID law, with one judge, Henry F. Floyd, saying that the intent to suppress the votes of people of color "... looks pretty bad to me."

Another appellate court judge, James A. Wynn, questioned why certain types of government-issued photo identification, like public university or public assistance ID cards, were disallowed. Judge Wynn once served on the N.C. Court of Appeals.

There was no word on when the three-judge panel would issue its decision, even though it could, per the petition of the N.C. NAACP, the League of Women Voters and other plaintiffs, order that the

voter photo ID requirement not be implemented for the November 8 general election.

"... Plaintiffs believe they have a likelihood of success on the merits on this claim and that voters will be irreparably harmed if the photo ID requirement is in effect in the November 2016 presidential election," the appeal reads. "Plaintiffs believe that if and when they prevail on the photo ID claim, implementation of the Court's order will be straightforward and simple: the requirement will simply fall away and voters will no longer be asked to show photo ID at the polls in order to vote."

However, as attorney Joyner noted, there's little doubt that attorneys for Gov. McCrory and the Legislature would appeal such a ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking an injunction to halt any disruption of the 2013 law.

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Hot SALE 8.99 EA MVP 8 Large Rolls Bounty Paper Towels 8 Mega or 16 Double Rolls Charmin Bath Tissue Without MVP Card Regular Retail

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Hot SALE 2.54 MVP 6.75-8.98 Oz. - Select Varieties Nature Valley Granola Bars Without MVP Card \$3.49 EA

Hot SALE 2 FOR \$4 MVP 9.5-13 Oz. - Select Varieties Nabisco Chips Ahoy! Cookies Without MVP Card \$2.88 EA

Homicide victims' information

The Winston-Salem Police Department has released the following information on the 14 homicide victims so far in 2016. The information appears in this order: order of homicide, date of homicide, name of victim, race, age and status of case.

- 02-06-16 Victim: **Robert Bradford Hall**, white male, 34 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 02-11-2016.
- 03-30-16 Victim: **Jackie Wayne Cross**, white male, 58 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 06-02-2016.
- 04-02-16 Victim: **Jonathan Kyron Williams**, black male, 25 years of age. Cleared as self-defense.
- 04-07-16 Victim: **Nakia Laurence Paupaw**, black male, 40 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 04-07-16.
- 04-13-16 Victim: **Doris Lovell Caldwell**, black female, 53 years of age. Cleared as self-defense.
- 04-16-16 Victim: **Jeremy Asiah Johnson**, black male, 25 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 04-20-16.
- 04-30-16 Victim: **Joshua Bernard Brown**, black male, 27 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 06-09-16.
- 05-25-16 Victim: **Eric Jermane Pegues**, black male, 41 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 05-29-16.
- 05-26-16 Victim: **Jonathan Russell McCravey**, black male, 28 years of age. Open investigation.
- 06-07-16 Victim: **Kedrick Leonard White**, black male, 44 years of age. Open investigation.
- 06-10-26 Victim: **Vierl Levan Banks Jr.**, black male, 44 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 06-11-16.
- 06-15-16 Victim: **Tyrone Smith**, black male, 58 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 06-15-16.
- 06-17-16 Victim: **Steven Richard Salsman**, white male, 37 years of age. Open investigation.
- 06-17-16 Victim: **Meghann Rae Stubbs**, white female, 34 years of age. Cleared by arrest on 06-17-16.