

BUDGET BRIEFING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Budget Briefing on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 12:25 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Larken Egleston, LaWana Mayfield, and Braxton Winston II.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Julie Eiselt, Justin Harlow, and James Mitchell.

ABSENT UNTIL NOTED: Councilmembers Ed Driggs, Matt Newton and Greg Phipps.

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INTRODUCTION

Mayor Lyles said this is our second Budget Briefing; there are three goals for today. Any questions that you want to discuss in further detail, we should pull out those questions for the staff to responsive; we will try to get those answered today. I hope there would not be new additional questions but questions that were already listed on the one on one Council or from the packet that you got on Friday. The second one is to go through the process for all of our adds and deletes and that process would begin tomorrow; our meeting is scheduled from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. We don't have to stay until 5:00 p.m. if we can do this, but I wanted to go through the budget adjustments process and make sure everybody is on the same page and then actually going through how we will do the straw votes and the schedule.

Councilmember Egleston said if we worked really efficiently tomorrow we could potentially not have to come back on the 29th.

Mayor Lyles said that is true if we do that. We've had the public hearing; you've had meetings with constituents I'm sure, and I think we've gotten lots of feedback. We've had the budget now for more than a couple of weeks, and the two Q and A packets since the budget were part of the May 6, 2019, and you have all of that in reference so the new is the list of questions that were asked in individual meetings. I think everybody had their individual meeting; did we miss anyone on that. Okay, so everyone has had an individual time with the budget team to work on additional information. What we would like to do is pull out anything that is on that new list of questions that you would like further discussions. We will have adjustments tomorrow; the Manager will come back on the 29th, so between the 23rd and the 29th he will follow up on the adjustments and then the budget is scheduled to be on the agenda on June 10, 2019.

Today, it would be helpful for the staff and the Manager that if you have any adds and deletes that we can go ahead and put those on the table. Tomorrow, the process for that would be that each Councilmember one at a time would get to put out their changes. The one thing that I think is really important is, if you ask for an add, we are required to have a balanced budget; so, by asking for an add that means that you are willing to reduce, eliminate something else, and if you an idea about what that would be that is important. Last year, I think we ended up giving the Manager the leeway to go handle that and he came back, and I think there was a lot of discussion because his recommendation didn't really fulfill everybody's idea of what was important to add or delete; so, I asked him how much is our contingency in this budget. The general fund contingent is –

Marcus Jones, City Manager said about \$85,000.

Mayor Lyles said \$85,000 for our contingency and that is in the General Fund contingency, so if you want to reduce your contingency by that amount that is up to the Council. I'm sure that they would recommend that we keep something in there for unexpected items, but we'll just make the staff work harder during the year if we eliminate the contingency if there is something that we need to change. My suggestion would be that if you have something you want to add that you at least have some idea of what you think you are willing to reduce and let us know that so that everybody is having that shared information. Then what we would do tomorrow is after we get the add and deletes listed, we will have five votes to move them

forward. That is really critical, because the staff will have to put serious efforts and very defined ways to say this is what this change means, this is how we will incorporate it in the Manager's recommendation and we should do that very seriously. Then a week from tomorrow we will actually do that straw vote for the final inclusion into the agenda item that is for June 10, 2019. That means you would actually have to have six votes on the 29th. Five tomorrow, six on the 29th. If we could get six votes today on some add and deletes or tomorrow on the add and deletes we would be saving some time. I think I've heard Mr. Egleston say that three times now, so I think he is ready. So, that is the schedule and we will start with the questions that we have from May 6th and 8th that came out on Friday.

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BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor Lyles said could I have you tell me which of the questions you would like to have further discussion or an explanation.

Councilmember Mayfield said we received a response on the vacant single housing acquisition rehab/resale, Page 9 of 19, and I would like to get a little more detail, and if you go to Page 12 in the new packet that was passed out, question #27, what is the plan for naturally occurring affordable housing funding, those two questions tie in together. Just to get more clarification. Mayor, do you also want us to bring up questions that we have for deletes at this time?

Mayor Lyles said have those I think that would be helpful. Right now, I'm just doing the questions, but if you have deletes or adds that is great.

Ms. Mayfield said I was trying to find the conversation that I had with the Manager and team when we had the one on one regarding the \$2 million that we've allocated for the CIT. I have questions regarding that as far as why \$2 million; we have some other pressing needs, and I think it should be \$1 million and when we get to the chance to have that conversation I will share why.

Mayor Lyles said so, what you would do is take the \$2 million for training in Police for CIT and reduce it to \$1 million. I did talk to Mayor Pro Tem; she has no adds or deletes for the budget.

Ms. Mayfield said the add based on the conversation regarding the proposed delete is more community engagement as far as we have now the definition of what is considered westside being Beatties Ford Road/Sunset Area, additional funding on the ground funding support within District 3 covering from Tuckaseegee to Nations Ford Road.

Mayor Lyles said there is a name for that program; what is the name of the program for the westside and the eastside?

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy City Manager said Eastside-Westside Collaborative.

Mayor Lyles said how much funding?

Ms. Mayfield said \$250,000.

Mayor Lyles said \$250,000 coming out of the \$1 million reduction for training.

Councilmember Ajmera said on Page 6 of 19, the second paragraph under Circular Economy, in 2018 the City has appropriated \$2.5 million, was there allocation from 2017? I believe it was half a million.

Phil Reiger, Strategy and Budget Director said in 2018 there was a half a million and in FY2019 budget we allocated \$2 million, so that is the \$2.5 million reflected there. Ms. Ajmera said this additional \$1.1 million, I don't remember seeing that in our agenda.

Ms. Joy-Hogg said those are existing facility funds that we have for HVAC, roof repairs, just building maintenance money. Before we turn over the building to Envision to occupy and to complete this program we've got to get it into a shape that is habitable.

Ms. Ajmera said was that already allocated in the past.

Ms. Joy-Hogg said yes, it had already been allocated; it is our facility so we normally take care of our facility maintenance.

Ms. Ajmera said on Page #8, question #8 around microloans and eligibility criteria, there is a last bullet point, to qualify for LISC match funds borrower must be endorsed by a LISC trustee; who are those trustees?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said Raphine Caldwell is here, so if I mess it up she can correct me. This is a LISC Program; this is not a City program at all, so when LISC administers these matching funds they have their own trustees that they use to verify these grants. I'm not quite sure who sits on that, but it is a LISC Corporation, nothing to do with us.

Ms. Ajmera said I understand that, but I guess that is their favor to tell an organization to apply for this, right. What is the process?

Mr. Jones said I would like to take it back one step; there is half million dollars in the 2020 budget for the Eastside collaborative and a half million for the Westside collaborative, all managed by the City. If the Council decided today that they didn't want any resources from LISC, it wouldn't change what we are doing with the Eastside and Westside collaborative. It is just providing other resources to these targeted communities.

Ms. Ajmera said the half million is separate funding from this?

Marcus Jones, City Manager said absolutely.

Ms. Ajmera said so, this is just additional funding that LISC is providing and there is no City match?

Mr. Jones said absolutely.

Ms. Mayfield said Mr. Manager, where it is a little confusing for me, and I'm not understanding why LISC's role in this piece is even in our budget, because if this is separate funding and what our budget is looking at is our funding and how we are attempting to allocate the funding in the community, help me understand why we even have this breakdown regarding an outside entity that has a separate funding model that we don't have anything to do with, why is it a part of our budget.

Mr. Jones said what we asked is because we wanted to bring targeted resources to these two communities with City funds; we talked about beautification, what would the community want; we also wanted to bring some financial resources to these two targeted areas. So, again it is just asking LISC could you bring some of your resources to two targeted areas and could it work in conjunction with what we are doing as a City? Again, if the Council said, we don't want it; it doesn't change what we are doing. It changes our ability to bring somebody to the table that could have patient capital of low cost loans that would come to the two communities.

Ms. Mayfield said that doesn't answer my question.

Mayor Lyles said I think Ms. Mayfield is asking is it in the budget. It is not in our budget.

Ms. Mayfield said that is what I'm asking because as a separate entity they are still raising funds; so, I'm not a fan of identifying any money that is not actually there. I want to make sure that we don't have any fogginess in our budget conversation that the dollars that we are reviewing are the dollars that we are responsible for. That is why it was confusing for me, why we even have this noted. Whatever LISC does, once they identify all the funding

that is great, but that does not have a direct impact on the City's budget that Council has to vote on. Like you said, our dollars are going to go for what is identified as a collective body. I was just trying to get clarity on why this is even in here because it is great selling point.

Mayor Lyles said it wouldn't be in the Q&A without someone asking the question.

Ms. Mayfield said even the clarity of it and making sure we are all on the same page; it is very difficult to have a conversation about any partner that says they are going to bring X until you actually have the dollars, and we are working with it for our budget purposes it just seems like for transparency sake that we are only focusing on our dollars and we know we have money identified for the Eastside and for the current Westside. It was just a question for clarification.

Mr. Jones said I do want to add; it is more about leveraging than anything else, like for instance, in last year's budget we talked about the private sector and the philanthropic community raising \$50 million to match the \$50 million bonds; so, it is just trying to show that there is leveraging capabilities when the City puts its funds forward for a different initiative.

Councilmember Phipps arrived at 12:42 p.m.

Councilmember Newton arrived at 12:43 p.m.

Ms. Ajmera said on Page #9 of 19; the investment of \$2.1 million, it is a pilot program for acquisition, rehab and resell; do we have performance goals and measurements to track this funding?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said the program is still being designed; so, we've got our right guidelines and all of that at it comes forward. We don't expect this program to begin until after January, so it is going to take us that much time to design all of it. We know the outcome we are expecting which is 12 vacant houses for purchase and resell and targeting on a population that we can create wealth by home ownership. We will have it eventually, we just don't have it right now.

Ms. Ajmera said would that be part of the Committee discussion at some point?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said it is more implementation and getting the program designed in a way that we can make the most impact. I'm not sure if it will go to a Committee.

Mayor Lyles said I think it will come back to Council; we would have to be the criteria of the program, so the program will come back to Council.

Ms. Joy-Hogg said absolutely.

Ms. Ajmera said we would have time to provide input on the criteria and eventually the performance goals that we will set, right?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said yes.

Mayor Lyles said I will say this isn't the first time the City did this; the houses on 8th Street right across from Little Rock's parking lot, those were all single-family homes moved and located there by the City, so there is precedent already for this type of program. It's just not been done recently.

Ms. Ajmera said I would like to know what would be our goals for that program, because I wasn't involved in the past, and I think it is important.

Mayor Lyles said I'm not disagreeing; I'm just giving you a point of reference.

Ms. Ajmera said I think the same would apply to Noah's. Pretty much on Page #9 bullet the \$2.1 million for acquisition, rehab and resell and then for Noah's which is \$4.2 million.

Mayor Lyles said we have a policy for Noah's that Council approve. Am I correct on that fact?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said the NOAH will come back to you, absolutely.

Mayor Lyles said but have we approved the NOAH policy?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said yes.

Ms. Mayfield said it went through Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee; Council did approve it but prior to realignment, what Committee was looking for was, the devil is always in the details and clarity of what is going to be identified as NOAH. What I think I'm hearing from Ms. Ajmera or what I would like to see is prior to these new Noah's coming, more clarification on the details of how we are going to identify NOAHs, because we don't know all the names of the apartment complexes out there, but the District Reps have been dealing with specific issues and what I have said on more than one occasion is I do not want us in a position where we are using tax dollars to continue to make a slum lord wealthy. We have some very specific properties that are out there. We can't compete with the market, but right now, we are having to go through where a complex has been purchased and everyone is being evicted with less than 45-days' notice, and we'll have how are we going to transition. We were waiting in Committee for the specific language that was going to come back. I think it will be helpful prior to any NOAH coming before full Council for an up or down vote for us to know what is the language so that we have an understanding of what the criteria of a NOAH is.

Ms. Ajmera said Ms. Mayfield addressed that, and I think ongoing goals and performance tracking of those funds would be important.

Mayor Lyles said do you have any adds or deletes that you would like to put on the table today?

Ms. Ajmera said not right now; I'm sure I'll have as we move forward, but I'm still going through this that we just received last night, I know the budget staff has been working around the clock with so many requests coming in, but is there a process that we can have to allow enough time for Council to review this? This just came last night and I did not have an opportunity to review all of this.

Mayor Lyles said as a result of that, what would you like to see happen?

Ms. Ajmera said give us more time; what is your recommendation? Obviously, I think the existing process of receiving the package the night before the budgeting session does not help.

Mr. Jones said Ms. Ajmera, in this case we did something a little different and that was have the one on ones with each Councilmember. So, in the spirit of shared information, shared decision making we didn't want one Councilmember to ask a question that another Councilmember was not aware of. We only wrapped these meeting up yesterday and I think the guys worked until about 10:00 last night to get them to you, but it is not to jam you up in anyway; it is just to make sure that you understand what some of your colleagues asked during the meetings.

Ms. Ajmera said we had one on one meetings last week; were there any one on one meetings this week?

Mr. Jones said yes.

Ms. Ajmera said some questions that were asked last week; if we could have those answers early on while you were waiting on the ones, because I had asked are still in here. I think that would have helped while we are still waiting on the ones that you just got on Monday or Tuesday.

Councilmember Winston said along the lines of the questions that have been asked, I think part of the Housing Framework was around preventing evictions, and I would like to know what kind of budgetary commitments we've made in efforts surrounding that.

Mayor Lyles said the County has decided to provide money to Legal Services, and they are going to provide funding for the evictions, but we need to get the amount. I talked with the County Manager, and they are going to fund the representation, so we can get that amount of money and tell you what is planned for the community as a result of it.

Mr. Winston said I would like to know if we plan to commit, because again, this is our Framework, not necessarily the County's, and we know that 99% of all people getting evicted don't have legal representation when that process is occurring, and I doubt the County, no disrespect to the effort they are going to make, just the size of the problem. I highly doubt that they will completely surround the need for that.

Mayor Lyles said this year for the first time I think they actually have an effort towards housing initiatives beyond what they've done. I talked with Dena about a few things, and that was one of them that I remember.

Mr. Jones said one of the things that would help us as a team is that the Housing Framework began as a Framework and then there was discussion about what would be the strategy around it. The Framework asked for 41% of the funds to be naturally occurring affordable housing. We won't get close to that. I want to make sure we understand what we are being held accountable to in terms of the 41% naturally occurring affordable housing, the 40% new construction and the 19%, which you just talked about, but also there is more funding than just in the Housing Trust Fund. So, I think what we need to do is look at all of the funds that are associated with housing, including about \$13 million that is outside of the Housing Trust Fund.

Mr. Winston said carrying on that theme, I believe that probably one of the most important policy lifts this Council and future Councils is going to take on is the Comprehensive 2040 Plan, and I believe there was a bit of miscommunication and that has been corrected that there is more money in this budget than some may have thought for that 2040 Plan to make sure that it continues on in the path that it needs to be as effective as it should be.

In the Transportation and Planning Committee meetings on Monday, one of the concerns that I heard, and I had a concern with was even with the additional funding and the additional purchasing power that is going to be behind this. We are asking staff to do a lot of out of office time, a lot of community engagement, and there was a concern that I had around comp time and the ability for employees in doing that out of office work, that community engagement part, ensuring that that counts to the ability to take the time that they need to not burn out and continue on the work. I don't have a specific ask right now, but I would like to know how the personnel changes and salary and compensation changes that we are making is affecting the ability for people that are going to be working on the 2040 Plan to have the amount of comp time that they need to keep doing their job.

Mr. Jones said Mr. Winston, we actually had a great Department Head meeting today on that very issue and as a group we really came together around, a lot of it is a management issue and how Department Directors manage some people's time, the flexibility with the time and things of that nature. So, we feel that we are in a good position, not just for the comp plan but throughout the organization as we start to be uniform in our practices and be flexible in our practices.

Mr. Winston said the last question I would ask is I would like to know what the County Commissioners make in salary, and I would like to add that City Council and the Mayor's salaries be put in line with what the County Commission makes.

Mayor Lyles said do you have any adds and deletes that you would like have information on.

Mr. Winston said I just did.

Ms. Mayfield said so, the add will be the compensation?

Mr. Winston said yes.

Mayor Lyles said I thought you just ask what it was, but you want to add that to the add list.

Mr. Winston said yes ma'am.

Mayor Lyles said and that would be equal to for the Councilmembers?

Mr. Winston said Councilmembers and Mayor in relation with the Chair of the County Commission.

Mayor Lyles said do you have a place that you would like to see deleted to be able to fund that? Let's just say it is \$50,000 or something like that.

Mr. Winston said I don't know if that contingency.

Mayor Lyles said out of the contingency, okay.

Councilmember Phipps said would that include the 5.5% that is proposed in the current budget? The last I heard that was what is proposed.

Mayor Lyles said the County Commission gets the same amount that is recommended for the general employees, so it would be 5.5% after July 1st. For us, it would be three percent, because that is what our employees are getting.

Mr. Phipps said there is no need for my add now after the discussions I've had related to question #17 on Page 12 of 19. I was asking about the potential need of an additional staff person to align our work with the foreign delegations that come to the City, but I was informed in talking with Tracy Dodson and the Manager; they feel that they can realign, because this talks about we already have a dedicated staff. Who is that one staff person that we have dedicated?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said it is Alexis Gordon.

Mr. Phipps said so, it is Ms. Gordon, and I frequently interact with Ms. Gordon, and I feel that she is pulled from a lot of different directions helping with the Immigration Committee and such in addition to this role, so I want to make sure, even though you all feel comfortable that we can realign and reapportion this work to be able to accommodate these many visitors that come that we have a plan to do so. It is not should the need arise, it is more or less the need is here already.

Even yesterday we had a delegation from the City of JinJu, a delegation of 10 that signed a letter of intent between our City and theirs to expand economic development and trade and culture and things. Matter of fact, they have a business relationship now with the Albemarle Corporation, so they were here visiting the Albemarle Corporation and just last month the Albemarle Corporation went to JinJu to have the groundbreaking of their new expanded Albemarle facility in China. We have a lot of foreign delegations coming here wanting to invest in Charlotte, the greater North Carolina region, so I wanted to make sure that to the extent that they do come here, take the time to travel here to meet with our staff and hopefully with the Mayor and such that we are in a position to act on things in a deliberate way. So, it is more of an economic development type function that I'm hopeful that we could integrate it somehow then to make sure the office of chief protocol and economic development are closely aligned to be able to give proper oversight to these many deals that would come our way from an economic development perspective. I was going to ask for an additional person, but I'm assured that there is no need; so, I'm going to take the Manager and staff's word on that, but I do want to make sure that there is a plan that is articulated more than just the couple of sentences we have here that we are going to be able to address those kinds of issues and visits when they do arise to be more effective. If I can get that assurance and

have some sort of narratives that this is how it is going to work more close coordination with the economic development team then I would be satisfied in that.

Mr. Jones said we can do that.

Councilmember Bokhari said I have two questions; the first one back to #15 on Page 12 of 19. This is about the holster monitors for body work cameras. I'm glad that we are tracking that; I've also dug a little myself and saw that there are some things the vendor still needs to do, but in doing that I've also talked to several officers this week, and I learned something that I want to throw out there if there is time to figure out if it can also be put in this bucket for consideration; it might also help with this topic. Maybe the rest of you knew this, and I just didn't, but one of the most painful parts of an officer's interaction with the body camera every day is the fact it is hooked up to these bluetooth kinds of devices where if they hit the siren or the wail horn and several other different things it activates, it takes footage and it stops but, before the end of their shift they have to go in document every single one of those before it gets uploaded. I think there are a lot of folks out there who use it appropriately, but it seems like a real suck of time that may make people frustrated with the technology they are using. There is technology out there that is doing voice activated dictation for, here is what it is, here is what it is activated for to save them that time. That might be another piece of technology to consider making the ease of use of the camera better and might go along well. That is one thing to consider; it may be too short notice right now, but it is something I definitely would like us to look at.

Mayor Lyles said we will get some information about that and not make any suggested changes unless there is a way to have it active.

Mr. Bokhari said I'm assuming it is the same group of vendors that we are looking at the holsters, which is something I would love to see if the technology is there, but also are there better pieces of technology and kind of user experience for the officers with that.

The second one I have is questions #11, Page 11 of 19; this is the breakdown that I ask for; it shows the passenger fare so the incoming dedicated revenue per bus, light rail or van pool, etc. compared to the overall operating expenses. The numbers are low; I think a lot of us expected that they are low, but 17% per bus is what is covered there, the operating expense by the ticketing, 25% for light rail. Is that benchmarked to what we should expect, and what other cities experiences? How do I benchmark to know that obviously these aren't net cash flow positive ventures for us but, if feels low but how do we think about this? If you want to take that away and tell me off line that is fine.

Mayor Lyles said I think the question is how do we compare and is this what we should expect?

John Lewis, Transit Director said CATS participates in a National Bus and Rail benchmarking working group and so many of these performance measurers we have to submit to the FTA National Transit Data Base but we don't have the ability to compare them so, there is a private consortium of public transit agencies of like sizes. I can get you the information that compares us to the 12 of 15 other agencies nationwide on over 100 different performance measurers.

Mr. Bokhari said I don't want to create a whole bunch of work, I just want to know in time how do we know; no-one is expecting you to be making a ton of money off of this or is this low? Are we doing something different because this is a pretty hefty cost center as it relates to a service?

Mr. Lewis said absolutely so, on these questions what we will do is get you information on all of those 15 agencies so you can compare in that regard.

Ms. Mayfield said Mr. Lewis, while you are pulling that information, in our packet we received a map based on a previous question I asked regarding proximity of four percent and nine percent tax credits; it would be helpful if we can do a map overlay of where we've made investments for housing, in relation to our bus and light rail looking at these numbers.

Because on the ground the way it appears is where we have made infrastructure investments, particular with light rail and bus realignment those who are benefiting are those who use light rail as a convenience versus may transportation and/or bus access and we've rerouted a number of our stops. So, if we look at an overlay of our working-class community in comparison to where our public transportation infrastructure is that might also help give us an idea, because I know just looking at South End there was a study and 73% of the residents use private transportation. There was a time before recent investments in the last few years where the majority of the traffic were those who mainly utilize public transportation as their number one source of transportation. If we look at an overlay of where we have housing, not just the Crescent and Wedge but the new reality over our public transportation that might help give us an idea of how we want to move forward and why some of these numbers in comparison are very low.

Mr. Lewis said we will work with the appropriate departments to provide that.

Councilmember Driggs arrived at 1:10 p.m.

Mayor Lyles said I want to add to Ms. Mayfield's concern something that is very concerning to all of us around the idea of how do we get our bus system to work for people that need it to work? People that need the ability not to have a car and the driving and Mr. Lewis has had a number of conversations; the MTC actually meets tonight, and it would take I think over several years to get our bus system to where it would be over \$30 million with buses and routes to get to I think just the desired point to meet your concern Ms. Mayfield, to be able to do that for buses alone.

I think that all of us need to be really aware that our transit system is not working for our vision where everyone in the City can have a job and a decent place to live because of the transportation is so expensive, and we haven't done anything. I really believe that next year we have to make some decision on whether or not we can really make those changes that are necessary or not. That means a real decision around how do we fund our transit system. The comparisons I think will help us, but the real issue is that we have a dated system that has headways of 90-minutes and nobody can work every day with a 90-minute wait for a bus. That is just not the real world anymore and if we are going to do something we've really got to step up and the question that I would say is how do we fund it because we do not have, and this is a countywide system, and we have demands for the northern and southern towns, but we are not doing what is necessary inside of our city limits. I would suggest that we get that information but know that we have to work with the County, but we are the big funders and we have to decide how much funding we are going to allow to allow people to be able to move around the City.

Mr. Winston said a follow-up to one of Mr. Bokhari's questions; he referred to holster monitors; we've been told that there are things that need to be worked on that are holding up that purchase. I would like to know what those things are; I really haven't been able to find that out. I would love that information of what are these things that need to be worked on.

One of the things Ms. Mayfield talked about in terms of people living outside of the City or not accessing public transportation to go to work in ways that have traditionally been used in the past. Again, I think if we look at how we can incentivize behavior for our own employees that is a way that we can create models for other employee groups or other behavior throughout our City. Something I had asked to look at residency of our employees and find a way to incentivize those people to live in our City. It is interested to see, if you look on Page 5 of the new packet from last night, which I have not been able to go through, but of 4,600 employees that aren't sworn officers, 2,000 of those folks live outside of Charlotte and therefore have less opportunity to use public transportation to get to work serving our City, and that is not to say that all 2,500 people that do live in the City have access to public transportation to get to their jobs at Charlotte Water, at Solid Waste and other places. So, I would like to see how we can, not just incentivize our employees to live in the City but live in places where they are able to use public transportation to get to our jobs. Again, with the idea that if we could come up with a culture within our own organization that is something that can translate in a tangible way to other jobs centers and employers.

Ms. Ajmera said I wanted to follow-up on the point that you had mentioned about how average time of 90-minutes that it takes for a rider to get around the City, we've got to address that and I do not know what the solution is in terms of the funding. I would like to see that, not as part of the budget, but an ongoing discussion as to what are possible action items that we can take in collaboration with the County and could it be part of one of the discussions at the Committee level to study that.

Mayor Lyles said I think we know the amount, and we know how much it is but this is a Countywide, all seven cities are participants in this effort and the goals are set by the MTC, so that group would make those studies and that information because they run the transit system. The six towns and Charlotte representation with the County as well so, I do think we know what it would take.

Ms. Ajmera said do we know how much more funding would be needed?

Mayor Lyles said \$32 million.

Ms. Ajmera said so that means that would be a part of the conversation at one of the MTC meetings? Who represents Charlotte on that?

Mayor Lyles said I do, so the seating is all of the Mayors of all the cities and the County has representation; there is also representation by a few other people, but since we've been meeting we've also had the ex-officio people, the Mayor of Gastonia, Belmont, Indian Trail, and Stallings. It is a large group.

Ms. Ajmera said do they have similar concerns?

Mayor Lyles said no, they don't have similar concerns.

Ms. Ajmera said on a separate topic, on Page 12 of 19, question #18, the City currently has 31 paid interns and one unpaid intern; so, 31 paid interns earning the lowest starting at \$10 and goes up to \$29 per hour. For our full-time employees we had raised it to \$16 per hour, so why is there such a variance here for our interns that are paid interns?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said they are not full-time employees; they are here to gain experience, so we don't consider them full-time employees. Our part-time employees also don't receive the \$16 per hour.

Ms. Ajmera said I would like to know what would be the budget ask if we were to give our part-time employees at least \$16 per hour. What would be the ask from the budget? What departments have part-time employees?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said I think most of the departments will have part-time employees.

Ms. Ajmera said are those part-time employees getting some sort of educational credit?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said I don't know.

Mayor Lyles said there is a difference between interns and part-time employees.

Ms. Joy-Hogg said some of the interns we have agreements with the Universities; the one case with Aviation they are receiving class credit for.

Ms. Ajmera said I would like to get the number of part-time employees that make less than \$16 per hour and what would it take in our budget to raise them to \$16 and for interns; the ones that are making less than \$16 what would it take for our interns to get up to \$16?

Sheila Simpson, Human Resources Director said I would like to add in the room; some of the interns that is in this data are youth interns, and so I think it is difficult to try to compare the youth interns to a regular status employee.

Ms. Ajmera said I think part-time employee would be something we've got to review, because I would like to review that.

Ms. Simpson said yes ma'am.

Councilmember Newton said I have two questions, no adds or deletes right now. Do we have the ability to drill down on the current existing low-income housing and NOAH's in the City altogether beyond just our investments to maybe give us a more accurate reflection and picture of what is happening on the ground? I think it is important to look at our investments and to see how they have impacted the needs of the community and the difference we are making. At the same time, I think it is also important to look at maybe broader on the ground picture as we consider where we want to invest our dollars in a number of different areas in the future. I don't know if that is possible; I know that is a heavy lift, big ask, but I think that would be very important useful information.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Newton, do you need that for tomorrow?

Mr. Newton said oh no, not by tomorrow; I'm just saying in general, but I think that would be helpful sometime, and it could be months. Let's try if we could rein that in sooner than half a decade that would be nice.

The other question I have is pertaining to question #15, and I think there have been a lot of questions there regarding the holsters. Do we have any idea of how much; apparently there is a vendor for these items, and they are updating the technology, but do we have any preliminary idea of how much this technology will cost us? I want to see that because I want to make sure that we are in a position that once these are updated and the technology is available. Here it says to negotiate a contract as needed. I want to make sure we are in position where we can afford that negotiated contract without having to wait another budget cycle.

Mr. Jones said because the Chief isn't in the room I will do the best I can. I would say each time that we have this conversation on negotiation the negotiation ability decreases. Right now, there is a vendor out there that we have worked with, and we did pilot test this and there are some glitches. If anybody can find a large city in the country that is working with this vendor I would like to talk to the Manager or the Mayor of that City. So, for us right now, they are trying to work out these glitches, but also there are more people coming into the market, but what I will say is that we cannot align with somebody where we have some glitches in the technology, but other vendors are also getting into this market place.

Mr. Newton said I understand that we have upwards of 2,000 police officers; I think the vast majority have BWCs (body worn cameras), or we provide them with BWCs and maybe if we can do some market analysis on this to get some handle on how much this would cost us to make sure we are in the position to act if and when that technology is available and the contract is negotiated.

Councilmember Driggs said I deal occasionally with people that are skeptical about the budget. I don't know if that will come as a surprise to you; anyway, the circular economy funding, which I think you indicated is \$3.6 million, is there any indirect funding related to the circular economy and the barn project or is that really our entire investment?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said that is our investment, but Envision Charlotte has the other side of it where they are bringing cash or in-kind donations to the whole project. They are securing their end of it as well. I don't have a runny tally on it.

Mr. Driggs said right, but I can deny that there is anything other than the numbers indicated here that we are spending public money for this circular economy?

Ms. Joy-Hogg said correct.

Mr. Driggs said similarly there were allocations that the Tree Preservation Fund is sometimes invaded for general fund purposes. Can I refute that? The number we have in

here that the balance and the uses of those funds are exactly as intended? Somebody from the development was saying that this money gets severed to other uses. So, I just want to be able to say I ask the question and the answer is no, so I'm fine with that.

Mr. Jones said I want to make sure I understand what the question is with the fund.

Mr. Driggs said the suggestion was that money is paid into this fund, and that it is intended to be use for tree preservation purposes, etc. but some of it has been diverted to other uses.

Mr. Jones said that is not the case. Mr. Driggs, if the question is, are we using some of the funds for planting trees and not just purchasing property; for the first time, we did use a quarter of a million dollars to go to Tree Charlotte to plant trees on parcels that we own and will preserve; so, I don't consider that at all a diversion of funds for preserving trees.

Mr. Driggs said okay, I've said before I think the Aging in Place Program is well intended but is not actually the best way to address the problem, and we are talking about \$750,000 this year to be added to the prior years and then to fund out. Would it be right to say that we do not intend on an annual basis to keep replenishing that fund, that we feel with the \$1.5 million we have done what we are going to do in terms of grants, and I hope that we can look at other ways of supporting people who feel threatened because of the tax bill.

Mr. Jones said I don't believe we have anything in the five-year outlook other than the \$750,000 and the \$750,000.

Mr. Driggs said okay, and the \$2.7 million sales tax impact will not affect us until next year; is that right?

Mr. Jones said that is correct, but it will affect us.

Mr. Driggs said there was a question raised in a Committee, where I'm not a member actually, about comp time in Planning. I don't know if anybody has asked that question yet. Has that been discussed?

Mr. Jones said yes.

Mayor Lyles said do you have any adds or deletes to the budget?

Mr. Driggs said no Mayor.

Ms. Ajmera said I just wanted to follow up on a couple points that Mr. Driggs has mentioned. I know I has asked earlier about the circular economy, so I'm good on that part. The Tree Preservation, all this time we were told that the Tree Preservation funds could only be used to buy the land to preserve. Is this the first time that we are using those funds for tree planting?

Mr. Jones said it is how a question is asked; so, the question that has been asked over the years is could we take those funds and do anything other than purchasing the land but, when staff asked Legal could you take those funds and give it to an entity that is planting trees on land that we are preserving, Legal said that is an inappropriate use of the funds.

Ms. Ajmera said I remember in the past we had asked that question, and we were told those funds could only be used for acquiring the site, not to plant any trees, but it looks like there is a different answer now that we could use it for planting trees on the site that we have acquired through these funds. Am I correct?

Mr. Jones said I wouldn't say it is a different answer; we have two battling attorneys and at the end there was a discussion about well could you use the funds to plant trees on land that the City purchased for preservation and everybody was in agreement with that.

Ms. Ajmera said is that part of some sort of language on preservation funding; is this part of the payment in lieu ordinance?

Mr. Jones said yes.

Ms. Mayfield said going back to a statement Mr. Winston made earlier regarding the comparison of County funding for Commissioners in comparison with the City Council, I would like for us again, if we go back to the delete that I mentioned earlier regarding \$2 million for a program that we really don't know how it is going to play out and roll out, reducing that to \$1 million in the budget. That funding could be used, because budget staff has already looked at this; they looked at the numbers as far as what it would look like for the City Council back in 2013. With this just looking at a comparison between City and County, if we are looking at a funding line item in order to keep our current budget in tact then, there is a possibility that within that \$1 million we would have the funding, so we are not looking at increasing but making sure that we are staying in line with our governmental body here. It was just really an addition to my colleague's remarks when you asked what budget line item it may come from, if we look at that million then in that space the funding may or may not be there to consider.

Mr. Reiger said the \$1 million for training that you are talking about is one-time funding, and so if we were going to make an increase to salaries for anybody, whether it is Council or staff we would want to find an ongoing funding source in order to do that.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you for that clarification. I would also ask for the Manager's Office when you are looking at that comparison I believe that our graduated interns or our senior interns, there is a funding level that we have in place for our interns that may be a comparison as well where we already have a funding model within the City for staff that may be helpful when we are looking at what is the appropriate funding for Council in comparison of the size of the City, size of Districts, etc.

Mr. Winston said I know the last budget cycle we identified one or two neighborhoods for relief of old trees in low income ownership areas. I would like to see what the result of that program is and the budget implications for making that citywide, because I would like to see that be a citywide program. I think it is important as we are looking and building neighborhoods and keeping in place these are some of the costs that drive people out of their homes over time. I can't say I would add that right now, because I don't have the information about that.

Mayor Lyles said Wesley Heights was one of the neighborhoods we did the pilot study on to help people cut branches or preserve their trees and things that would keep the trees healthy instead of, but I don't remember what the results were. I just remember one of the locations was Wesley Heights.

Mr. Winston said can we expand this program during this budget cycle?

Mayor Lyles said if we are going to do that, would you like to see that as a one-time funding or would you like to see it as a tree program that would exist over a period of time in the capital budget?

Mr. Winston said I feel like just off the top of the mind it could be a program that could be funded one time if there is a certain capacity we think we could come up with a plan to do a citywide program that kind of identifies places where this will happen. I don't know if the work could be done within one year.

Mr. Jones said one thing I would throw out and I know it is not necessarily for tomorrow and I'm sure if we could even quantify it right now but one thing that you do have over the years has been this 15% set aside from CDBG that the City has decided to use for Out of School Time Partners. I'm just saying that as we look in the future for programs that are important to the Council or priority, that is really something that is open for discussion.

Mr. Winston said actually, that is something that we talked about; I think it was the Environment Committee as we were having discussions around the SEAP as we were having discussions around workforce development being that Charlotte is such an urban

forest, and we have some unique opportunities and that tree services are needed all over the place and are one of those work forces that are sometimes hard to fill, are we uniquely qualified through other opportunities like this to create a workforce development program. It also improves our neighborhood ability for people that would be income burdened to stay in their homes. Maybe there is a place that we can be creative with our budget and pull it from a couple different places to really create something new.

Mayor Lyles said I think the Tree Program for the 15% as we get to that place where it is available, some design, is that what you are suggesting?

Mr. Winston said yes ma'am.

Ms. Ajmera said I have follow up to Mr. Winston; as part of the urban forest plan discussion we had discussed at the Committee level a pilot program and I'm not sure if that pilot program funding continues in this year's budget for the communities that were struggling with aging tree canopy. Is that in this budget, that pilot program that I think ended a year ago? I know that program was in good demand and we had seen results of that as part of the Committee discussion.

Mike Davis, City Engineer said from memory, that program a one-time infusion of \$25,000 and the neighborhood mentioned earlier, Wesley Heights is where those funds were deployed. We could certainly provide some information on how that has worked out; it has generally been successful, but that was a one-time shot.

Ms. Ajmera said we have the information; that was provided as part of the Committee discussion, and that is what Mr. Winston was referring to so, that was one-time and that has been ended, correct.

Mr. Davis said yes.

Ms. Ajmera said I would like to see if we could allocate funding to that program and continue to have that program because that was very successful, especially in neighborhoods that are gentrifying. Wesley Heights was one example, but if we could look at other neighborhoods as well and see what would be the budget ask.

Mayor Lyles said it was \$25,000 so where would you like to get that money?

Ms. Ajmera said I'm not sure; I think that is something we have to assess the results from the Wesley Heights pilot program to see if we were to roll it out to other neighborhoods that have asked about this program what would be the appropriate amount to request. I'm not putting a number; I'm just asking for information.

Mayor Lyles said would you like for that to be on the add list and when we get that information do you have a particular place you would look to fund it.

Ms. Ajmera said no, I think I'm open to hearing from the Manager as to where we could pull the funding from.

Mayor Lyles said the Manager has asked that because the budget is balanced the way he presented it that you actually have some idea of what to reduce because his recommendations are a balanced budget so whatever amount it is, just having some idea of what you would change.

Ms. Ajmera said I would like to hear his recommendations on where we can get the funding from, just like we had done in previous budget cycle.

Mayor Lyles said and he said he would prefer this year that we either take it out of the contingency or identify the funding because last year he came back with recommendations and it just didn't work. Nobody liked the idea of what he recommended and these are the changes that we are asking for as the Council so, I think he is just asking that we not put him in a position of doing that without having some idea of what you would like to see changed to get the other thing done.

Ms. Ajmera said I will have a discussion with the Manager on that figure out what other area we could look into to fund this.

Ms. Mayfield said Mr. Manager when we had the budget conversation last year and I originally requested I believe it was \$50,000 specifically to help with tree removal prior to the weather change and the hurricane based on conversations in community and that ended up just going towards Tree Charlotte. You have additional funding in here and I believe that you had funding to specifically help with the tree removal and specifically to help in that income range that we previously identified. I think using the federal levels of 80 and below.

Mr. Jones said yes, but I believe that is the same program that Mike is talking about and so there is \$100,000 in the proposed budget for Tree Charlotte. It is the same \$100,000 that was in the approved budget last year for Tree Charlotte, and there is \$250,000 that is coming from that development fund that is related to Tree Charlotte. All of that is for planting trees.

Ms. Mayfield said so, there is no funding that was identified, because I know last year there wasn't and in this new budget there is still because that is a major challenge that we are having in community that we have older trees that a lot of people do not realize are hollow or have damage to them, so when the request was originally made last year during adds and delete it was for a very specific focus of funding set aside specifically to help with tree removal and/or cut back for trees. For clarification, even in this new proposed budget we still did not identify money to specifically go towards tree removal. We only identified funding for tree plantings.

Mr. Jones said and we continued the program that we had last year and the year before, which is \$1.6 million for tree trimming and removal and there is another \$900,000 for the tree replacement program. I don't want the Council to think that we don't do anything. I believe what you were trying to do and I applaud you Ms. Mayfield; is to target a community over and above what we've been doing. So, what I would like to do as we reconvene tonight is maybe give the Council a better idea of how we spend this \$2.5 million in terms of the tree replacement program and the tree trimming and removal program and see to what extent we do have some data on the first \$25,000, which I believe was targeted toward individuals with certain income restrictions in certain areas.

Ms. Mayfield said that would be helpful.

Ms. Joy-Hogg said it is in your first set of Q and A #7 of 19. It is under the tree canopy and it has a whole table of the funding history.

Mayor Lyles said so, on trees Mr. Winston has said let's look at the program that I think was Ms. Ajmera's idea as well on maintenance of trees all over and see if we could figure out a program that was continuously funded and going ahead. You would have put it in the capital program and Ms. Ajmera is going to work with you Mr. Jones, to figure out for this upcoming budget what that money would be for those neighborhoods and funding and Ms. Mayfield is asking specifically about the \$25,000 and whether or not that continues. So, you've got three levels to go.

Mr. Winston said I'm wondering, but it also fit into kind of extensionally into our NOAH kind of efforts? Take for instance to take down a tree and it might be \$4,000 per tree and if you have a couple trees that can be otherwise you live in a house that you would stay there, but if you incur \$20,000 charge to make your home safe, shouldn't we look at that as a staying in place and good neighborhood building effort as well?

Mayor Lyles said I would assume that if we had a rehab of a house, and there was a tree problem that would go into the rehab loan for the house, but I think what we are talking about are people that live in established neighborhoods for trimming to perhaps; I don't know what the level of it is, so I think that is something we will have to define and look at for the program. I think we don't have a definition like that, and I think the question is should we. If you can have time to work it out as part of your capital budget, but it is \$50,000 a year for whatever. As Ms. Ajmera said, we don't know what it would be even if you went by income across the

entire City. If you want to do it that way that is probably \$25,000 each neighborhood, because I'm sure they spend it all from the presentation that I saw. I think we need some work so that we can further define what you are talking about doing and how it fits. It is certainly a worthy effort because of our canopy, and that is important, but I think some of our best ideas come at the last minute.

Mr. Phipps said I haven't heard or read in any of the material; we are going to have a decision to make with respect to several MSDs that are requesting an increase in their millage that is going to be coming before us, a couple in South End and one in University City, and I know the state has some parameters but I don't know that we as a City have developed any kind of criteria on which to judge the degree to which they reach out to their respective customers within their MSDs, and how much is enough and should there be a percentage, but what you have here is some business owners that live within these MSDs. They are essentially requesting a rate increase on their millage and that you be paid by the businesses within that area. I don't think it really affects the City's budget as much because the City's allocation is going to be based on a revenue neutral allocation. Is that correct? I don't know if you've seen it in your documents yet, but they've requested in as much as they have a body of work that they need to fulfill and that the revenue neutral rate is not going to be sufficient. They've been dipping into their reserves using contributions from private partners. So, they really do see a need to increase their millage rate. In the case of University City Partners, they have never increased their millage rate since the inception of the MSD; so, this would be a first to them if we decide to do it. That is going to be out there.

Mayor Lyles said I think I need someone on the Council to say tomorrow that they would recommend that we allow the municipal service districts who have requested a rate increase to do that, because right now, the budget is a revenue neutral budget unless someone on this body says I'm willing to ask for or willing to recommend, and it gets six votes to increase the millage. I think it is Center City Partners, University City; those are the two. Center City Partners have four districts, and they are only doing it on the streets of Tryon in the business district, they are not requesting it for residential. I don't remember what the University is; it would have to apply to everyone in the district for University City.

Mr. Phipps said that MSD number five, right? So, this is a group, it is unusual that they've reached out to them, and they've said yes, we want to have our millage rate raised to help cover our body of work, it is important, it is critical.

Mayor Lyles said would you put that on the add list; you would ask for both Center City Partners and University?

Mr. Phipps said I could do it, but I wouldn't want to really speak for Center City Partners inasmuch it is split up between Egleston, Mayfield, and Harlow, right?

Mayor Lyles said the District they are talking about are the ones down core to the Center City, the businesses. Mr. Egleston would you add that for the increase for Center City Partners?

Councilmember Egleston said [inaudible] the request that they've made at the level they've made?

Mayor Lyles said the Manager has recommended a revenue neutral; if it is going to change one of the Councilmembers needs to put it on the list to add, so yes would you?

Mr. Egleston said yes.

Mr. Bokhari said my question is, the way it is set up if we voted on the budget right now with no changes that wouldn't happen. So, now it's got to be straw voted in by all of us. I would encourage those groups rather than just maybe sending that letter to make the case for exactly or even beyond that like there is consensus for that end vote.

Mayor Lyles said I think the letters that I've seen have said they have talked to property owners within, and they have consensus to do it. I have not read the University City letter;

I do know Center City Partners has said they have done that, so I would suggest maybe you follow up on University City, and Mr. Egleston if you will follow up with Center City Partners.

Ms. Joy-Hogg said may I point out in the Q and A that was passed out last night, question #32, Page 14 and 15, then there are subsequent letters attached to the Q and A.

Mr. Phipps said one of the things that I'm concerned about from a City standpoint is where do we lay out the parameters of notification to these property owners within the MSD? Do they get to cherry pick or should there be a percentage? If they have 10,000 customers because at some point they were invited to become a part of the MSD right. So, my fear is, once this rate increase goes out, if it is approved, then I'm going to be getting calls from some business saying I'm getting a rate increase I wasn't even asked about it. Should there be some sort of rule to say you've got to at least reach out to these many people to do it?

Mayor Lyles said I think you have to ask them how they did it and bring that forward to say does the Council as a whole believes that was the sufficient number. I don't know that we could establish within the timeframe we have. It is already done for what they want to do for this budget, you would have to ask them what they did and see if they feel comfortable with that to increase it. If you want to set a policy for that the County is saying another reval in four-years. If you want to do that, I think that is something the Budget Committee could [inaudible].

Mr. Phipps said I that is for future action to look to see if there is a need for us as a municipality to set some sort of parameters for us by these MSDs on a go forward basis, not necessarily something for this cycle.

Mayor Lyles said it can't be just a simple majority, because you may have a \$100 million building, and it has to be very thoughtful, but I wonder for this budget you have to bring forward how they are wanting to do it, and you just have to raise your hand yes or no.

Mr. Newton said I agree with Mr. Phipps on that point, and I don't know with this letter if I get the full scope of who is in and who is out. Who all was in the District; who agrees with it, and who disagrees with it, not to say that is a question we are going to be able to answer in this budget cycle?

Mayor Lyles said we are going to ask them how they did it for this budget cycle.

Mr. Newton said that would be fantastic. So, Mr. Winston had brought up the question earlier pertaining to Council salaries and Ms. Mayfield had suggested a deletion of \$1 million and Mr. Reiger astutely had mentioned that is a one-time amount available to us. I'm going to go out on limb here, and I would assume that amount would cover a one-year increase if that was something that the Council was on board with. To what extent would it cover subsequent years? That is me just information that I would be interested in, how long would that, depending on whatever the increase is. How long would that fund increases and in the meantime if a fund like that would last long enough to figure it out?

Mr. Egleston said I think the point was you don't fund a reoccurring expense with a one-time expense.

Mr. Reiger said it is a budget principle.

Mr. Newton said is that something for our City Attorney.

Mr. Reiger said no.

Mayor Lyles said I think what Mr. Newton is saying if you set aside a million dollars how far would it go to pay and for how long.

Mr. Newton said bingo.

Mr. Egleston said that is not how we create –

Mayor Lyles said I didn't say it was how we do things, I just said that was the question he is asking.

Mr. Reiger said we can do the math on that Mr. Newton, but I would add that one of Council's adopted budget principles says that we would do structurally balance budgets and part of structurally balanced budget is to make sure that ongoing expenses are matched with ongoing revenues.

Mr. Newton said I'm just interested to know, and I would venture to say it would probably last quite a long period of time at which point from a reoccurring standpoint I think that could be figured out but just food for thought.

Mayor Lyles said we will get that number, because I really don't know what the County's salaries are.

Ms. Mayfield said Mr. Manager, when I flipped through, and maybe I missed it between the two packets, in our one on one I asked if we can think outside the box regarding the funding that we've allocated to help community, whether it is the Aging in Place Program, the down payment assistance, for us to have more flexibility in that range because we were looking at 80% and below of area median income for the targeted rehab program, we went up to 120%, and I had asked where in the dollars do we have flexibility on our dollars to be more flexible, and I gave the example of today we have people qualifying for \$150,000 loan for the down payment assistance program. We have no \$150,000 homes out there. Also, the reality that we have some elders in the community who are on fixed income; they are not destitute but they make just outside of the amount in order to qualify for our program, but they could really benefit from the program. We were asking is there some leeway between that \$125 or \$127; what is that magic number where we can really have an impact, especially if we are using the grant dollars and getting the commitment of long-term owner occupancy in that home or having that first right of refusal is something were to happen to the elder, they pass a way, what happens to the home and all that stuff? But, trying to give us the ability to really address the need that we have in our community today based on the market.

Mr. Jones said I'm glad you reminded me and brought that up Ms. Mayfield. Some of the numbers might be off a little bit but I think \$640,000 of that are federal funds but another \$450,000 are City dollars, and we would have flexibility in crafting a program that is unique to us around that amount of money.

Ms. Mayfield said right, we identified that it was around \$450,000 or so, but what I still don't know is how far can we go based on our need. As we are looking at this in order to really get the biggest bang for our buck and to get that ratio where it is going to make a difference and the two part because the other part that I specifically requested when Mr. Newton and I met with you all, I wanted to ensure that this stayed within the City of Charlotte. This is not a program to be run through LISC; it is not dealing with any of LISC dollars. This was specifically a City of Charlotte program without LISC having any part of the allocation or the application conversation to really look at how are we impacting and creating opportunity and not picking one neighborhood but creating something, where it is an equity model for people to be able to apply, but looking at our needs. So, the request bears, right now we do 100% AMI, but we know there are people right outside of that, they are really like at 127 or 128, something in there or 132, but it is enough of a difference where if we come in we could stabilize them or we see major deterioration and then you have Code Enforcement come in and the home ends up getting condemned and then that starts another whole level opposed to us being able to come in at this level, stabilize them before you are practically destitute and we come in and help. We have some flexibility around that \$450,000 to \$470,000.

Mayor Lyles said I really understand what you are saying. This is for me one of those big questions that we used to actually do a periodic look at housing stock in certain census tracts that had certain levels of income, and I don't know that we've actually looked at our housing stock in a very long time. It is not a next week kind of deal; it takes some time and energy hiring someone to go out there, because I do think that the value of that is that there are programs that we have that we should index not that we have an economist. They could be

indexed to automatically increase by the cost of living for example. Then there are programs that need to be adjusted based on the age of the housing stock. The housing stock questions is a much bigger question than actually looking and saying who do we serve? We can decide to index according to inflation or cost of living or whatever we want to do, because I think you are right. If you are getting the minimum social security income it is \$29,000 a year; well, it has not changed in many respects for years, so people are still living and trying to maintain a house at that same level, but the way that house was built, constructed or when it was, we don't have a really good handle on the value of it and how do we keep it in there. If we are going to go into this program of actually looking at ways to keep people in their housing, more than just the two-year program, we need the housing stock model and some information about it. It is a longer-range look, and I know that this isn't immediate so I'm not asking that we do anything about it now, but if we are going to be serious about this idea of equity and moving you've got to attack it both from the people's side, where their incomes are and what the value of the housing stock is. Right now, we don't know that. I think that is something worthwhile doing, because in a community the size of ours, we know by building permits; we know by age of housing, where we ought to be concentrating our efforts, but I think we have to have some review of it to make that possible to be done. I agree with Ms. Mayfield; I think that is something worthwhile, getting the analytics, because if we ever got a good base line we wouldn't have to do this on a guess me how much we are doing. We could just annually adjust it.

Ms. Mayfield said I agree that that part is a longer conversation, but for this budget conversation for the \$450,000 that is identified I want to ensure that one, ask if I can get the buy in for my colleagues, to help direct the Manager's office for us to be very clear and to be very targeted and intentional about how we can utilize those dollars based on the need that we are seeing, and those number aren't really as difficult to identify because we already have them. So, if we just look at the snapshot of the last three years through Housing and Neighborhood Services who has applied for assistance, which applications were denied, because they were right outside because we don't say you are just outside. It is just, okay you make too much that goes into this pile. We already have a lot of that information, so we can get an idea how many additional we could have helped if we had this additional access.

Mr. Phipps said I will get with the Manager to see what kind of instructions were given to the MSDs to come up with a plan to justify the survey of their customers on a rate millage increase.

Mayor Lyles said just as a reminder tomorrow we start at 1:00 and we go until 5:00. Everyone that would like to come with an add should come with a way to get the income to do it. So, if you are going to add, no matter what you do bring in something that shows you are willing to actually vote to delete something to get something in the budget. That will take five votes tomorrow. Do I need to e-mail this out to everybody? It only takes five votes tomorrow to move an add or delete forward. On the 29th, it takes six or more to get it incorporated in the revised ordinance for June 10, 2019.

Mr. Jones said one question for the team, so, the add and deletes are going to happen tomorrow also? There will be new adds or deletes from the folks who are here today

Mayor Lyles said I heard people say they were not prepared to do that. I heard Ms. Ajmera say that she has adds and deletes; so, tomorrow we will have to do them again. Mr. Mitchell is not here, and I don't think he knew about that and Mr. Harlow so I think the three of them need that time. Is anyone else thinking that they haven't been able to figure out something else? Maybe we could help out that way and right now I had the \$250,000 for Westside, the salary for the Mayor and Council, the tree maintenance, the building change, and the tax rates for the Municipal Service Districts. Assuming that the staff will have those and if people really come in with I want to add this and I want to delete this and there is general agreement by six people, we do not have to have a meeting on the 29th. I would hope that would be a goal.

Ms. Mayfield said you have the deletion of the \$1 million on CIT training.

Ms. Ajmera said part-time employees.

Mayor Lyles said I thought that was just for information; I did not have that.

Ms. Ajmera said we don't have the number yet.

Mayor Lyles said when can you give the information on intern salaries; would that be one that you would want to add?

Ms. Ajmera said I would like to know the number first.

Mayor Lyles said intern or part-time?

Ms. Ajmera said both, I would like to see both numbers then I will make an ask.

Mr. Jones said I can tell you that is not going to be a small number, and so we would have to go into the operating budget, not the million dollars for Police training, but that would be a significant change to the budget.

Ms. Ajmera said are you going to vote or just part-time workers?

Mr. Jones said how many part-time workers do we have?

Mayor Lyles said part-time workers get benefits in the same amount. If your job is a \$16 an hour job as a part-time you are getting the hours work that the \$16 an hour. It is not that you get less money for being part-time for a job responsibility. Ms. Simpson; am I saying that correctly?

Mr. Egleston said the \$16 is only for full-time.

Ms. Ajmera said \$16 is only for full-time, not for part-time. That is what I understood.

Ms. Simpson said in years prior when we increased our minimum wage to \$15 per hour by City Council, the minimum wage was increased to regular employees; so, the term that people use is full-time employees, but those were regular employees. We do have some temporary employees and some of them are at the minimum wage and some of them may be beneath the minimum wage.

Mayor Lyles said a temp is different than part-time, right?

Ms. Simpson said that is correct.

Mayor Lyles said okay, they are different classifications. I think that is what is throwing us off. I thought Ms. Ajmera asked about permanent part-time people that work 20-hours or 30-hours a week.

Ms. Ajmera said actually part-time, I did not know there was a different classification for a temp so how many temp employees do we have?

Ms. Simpson said I have to pull the data but generally give or take 200 people at any point in time. It is cyclical. Temporary people are very cyclical that is what temporary means. We bring them in sometimes a 100; sometimes at the highest peak probably 200.

Ms. Ajmera said how many part-time permanent employees do we have?

Ms. Simpson said I would have to pull all the records Ms. Ajmera to give you an accurate figure on that.

Ms. Ajmera said could we get a number on board?

Mayor Lyles said are you asking for permanent part-time?

Ms. Ajmera said I would like to know both, because if it is not too much of a difference I would like to understand because I feel like there is so many folks that are not making \$16. There is an intern category; there temp categories, and there is part-time permanent category.

Mr. Jones said we can do that.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.



Emily A. Kunze, Deputy City Clerk, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 1 Hour 47 Minutes
Minutes Completed: June 19, 2018