THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: June 9, 2020

Subject: Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget

Staff Resource: Barbara Whitehorn, CFO, Finance and Management Services Director

Action Requested: Conduct public hearing on the City of Asheville Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Proposed Annual Operating Budget and include public input in City Council's consideration of the budget.

Background:

- The 2020-21 Proposed Annual Operating Budget was presented to City Council on May 26, 2020.
- A copy of the Proposed Budget is available for public review on the City's website (www.ashevillenc.gov)
- Budget highlights include:
    - The FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget continues funding for existing services with limited enhancements, new programs, or initiatives.
    - The Proposed General Fund Budget is $134.6 million which represents a $2.3 million or 1.7% increase over the FY 2019-20 Adopted General Fund Budget. Approximately $1.7 million of this increase is in General Fund support for Transit to annualize the service enhancements that began in January 2020 and to cover cost increases associated with paratransit service.
    - The total City budget which includes the General Fund and the City's six Enterprise Funds, is $184.6 million which is a $5.8 million or 3.0% decrease compared to the FY 2019-20 Adopted Budget.
    - The Proposed Budget is balanced while maintaining the current property tax rate of 0.4289 cents per $100 of valuation and without any fee increases.
- In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (G.S. 159-12), a summary of the Proposed Budget along with a notice of the public hearing was published on May 29, 2020.
- Adoption of the FY 2020-21 Budget Ordinance is scheduled for June 23, 2020 at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.
- The Proposed Budget may be changed by City Council in any way before adoption. It may also be changed by budget amendment after adoption with the only exception being the ad valorem tax rate which cannot be changed once the budget is adopted.

Council Goal(s):

- A Financially Resilient City

Pro(s):

- Provides the opportunity for the public to comment on the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2020-21.

Con:

- None.

Fiscal Impact:

- None.

Suggested Motion:

- Conduct the public hearing on the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2020-21 on June 9, 2020, and include public input in City Council's consideration of the budget.