

SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 20, 2009

The Special Meeting of the City Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers by Mayor Jeff Bearden, and a quorum was declared present.

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

Commissioners: Jimmy Dennis, Russell Brownlow, Travis Taylor and Phil McCuiston

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Public Works Director Bob Cochran, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Municipal Judge Delores Flores and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Commissioner Jimmy Dennis led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags, followed by the invocation.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Manager Grant explained the budget process, the estimated change in appraised property values, and the tools used to balance the budget.

Current Fiscal 2010 budget figures are \$12,680,168 for General Fund and Utility Fund, which is \$370,229 above revenues, which include a 3% property tax increase.

Mr. Grant also outlined scenarios that could be used to balance the budget, including cutting capital requests, cutting COLA increases, and raising water rates, or combinations of these suggestions.

Capital requests for 2009-2010 were:

- New loader down payment for street department
- Increasing 2 part time employees to full time in the police department
- Complete make ready for the police department
- Digital Mirror Video cameras for 4 police cars
- 4 vehicles down payment for the police department
- A new ladder truck down payment for the fire department
- A storage building for the fire department
- A mower for the cemetery
- An office building for the cemetery
- Increase a part time employee to full time in the Municipal Court
- Add two full-time employees in the Parks
- A used bucket truck down payment for Buildings & Grounds
- Imaging Equipment and Software for the Utility Billing Department
- GPS Mapping Software for Water & Wastewater Department

- 2 pickup down payments in the Water Department
- Remodel the Wastewater Treatment Building

Mayor Bearden stated that he did not want us to increase property taxes and wanted to increase water rates instead. Water rates have not been increased since 2006.

After further discussion among the commission and staff members, City Manager Grant summarized the stated wishes of the Commission in attempting to balance the budget:

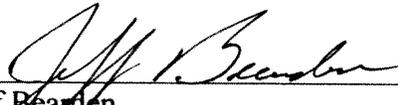
- No tax revenue increase
- Keep the 1% Cola and the Step & Grade
- Increase water rates
- Cut capital requests by 60%

All commission members agreed with this and Mayor Bearden wanted Mr. Grant to find out what other entities were doing about salary increases and tax revenues.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Dennis moved the meeting adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary