

SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2011

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

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

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

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, City Attorney Trish Byars, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Public Works Director Bob Cochran, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Main Street Director Dan Kelleher, Finance Director Anne Garmon and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Commissioner Dennis led the group in the invocation.

BUDGET 2011-2012 DISCUSSION

City Manager Grant outlined the proposed 2011-2012 Budget.

Revenue changes are:

- Property Taxes – There is no property tax increase, with the effective tax rate proposed being lower than last years' rate.
- Water & Sewer Rates – A 3% increase in water and sewer rates is proposed to cover the cost of bond payments for infrastructure improvements.
- Sales Tax – A \$4,000 increase in sales tax is anticipated over last year.
- Ambulance billing – Bills have been sent to Wilbarger County and Wilbarger General Hospital to share the deficit according to the 1984 agreement. This will help to offset the extra costs to pay Paramedics and additional meds to make our service Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) Level 2 ALS. There is an additional \$22,000 in user fees. Ambulance rates will need to be modified to include these MICU meds.
- Mainstreet – Transferring \$15,500 from the Main Street Fund to offset façade grants and some advertising included as an expense in that department.

Expenditure changes include:

- Step and Grade remains in place allowing a 2% salary increase based on merit. A 2% increase for Division Directors is also included.
- City Secretary - \$Increased \$3,000 for November election expenses.
- Legal – Increased \$10,000 for additional court and docket days. A prosecutor has to be in Court when Court is in session.
- Streets – Added \$45,000 for Paving Lorange Street, but reduced seal coat expense by \$50,000. A dump truck is budgeted, less the amount to be financed for a down payment of \$12,000.
- Police Department – Two additional dispatchers were requested due to the increase in number of calls, but was not included in this budget.

- Police Department – Radio equipment to meet Federal standards totaling \$13,176 city match of grant funds in the amount of \$107,108.
- Police Department – Two Ford SUV vehicles less lease purchase financing for a down payment of \$10,000.
- Police Department - \$7,000 for outside work on the building façade.
- Fire Department – Continuing costs associated with lowering our ISO rating including costs for a consultant, a station alert system on the circuit between dispatch and the fire department, and additional fire hose.
- Fire Department – costs for Federally mandated repeater and radios, less lease purchase financing for a down payment of \$13,000.
- Court – funding for an additional FTE, with the Judge’s hour reduced to part-time.
- Ambulance – Additional \$42,000 cost for Paramedic Certification.
- Parks – additional FTE which was budgeted this year but not used.
- Parks – Replace landing surface under play equipment.
- Main Street – Salary increase for the Main Street Director.
- Water Department – Generators and electrical hookups for backup power for the well field. These expenses totaling \$97,900 will be budgeted from the 2009 Water Improvement Bonds.
- Water Department – Upgrade to barricades for traffic control during repairs.
- Water Department – one ½ ton pickup less financing for a down payment of \$5,000.
- Wastewater Department – 2 mobile generators and electrical hookups for all 13 lift stations totaling \$25,000, which will be budgeted from the 2009 Water Improvement Bonds. This item is mandated by TCEQ.
- Wastewater Department – a 1-ton truck with crane, less financing for a down payment of \$6,000,

Discussion included the Municipal Judge / City Attorney / Court Clerk duties, responsibilities and status; the use of Volunteers in the Fire and Ambulance Departments and their costs; other possible funding for façade improvements and downtown beautification; additional grant opportunities for funding the radios and repeaters in the Fire Department; funding for housing demolition in Code Enforcement; Using New Visions funding for the Kaboom Grant Match; the fact that there are no budgeted contingency funds per requests from the outside auditor; and the water, sewer and sanitation revenue.

There was continued discussion for future dates for Budget Workshops and discussion.

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to have a budget work session at the Regular City Commission Meeting on August 23, 2011.

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

PROPOSAL FOR ADOPTING TAX RATE

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve the proposal to adopt the lower of the effective or rollback tax rates to generate the same revenue as 2010.

Commissioner McCuistion seconded that motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

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



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary