

**SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2012**

Mayor Jeff Bearden called the Special Meeting of the City Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 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, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Public Works Director Bob Cochran, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Main Street Director Dan Kelleher, Finance Director Anne Garmon, City Secretary Linda Byers, Associate Municipal Judge Lori Adams, Parks & Cemetery Supervisor Tony Dehoyas, and Water Distribution Supervisor David Templeton.

Mayor Bearden led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags, followed by the invocation.

PURCHASE RADIO REPEATER

Fire Chief Kent Smead explained that this purchase is to satisfy the FCC P25 mandate for the Fire Department. The lowest bid is from Price Communications in the amount of \$31,047, which includes all necessary equipment and installation as well as a tower crew for the antennae installation. These funds are in the FY2012 budget.

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to approve the purchase.

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

BUDGET 2012-2013 DISCUSSION

City Manager Grant outlined the proposed 2012-2013 Budget, and pointed out that it is important that we show an increase in the General Fund balance this year to maintain our "A" rating with Standard & Poor's. There is a large increase in debt service this year which was expected. Mr. Grant outlined the publication and tax hearing dates.

Revenue changes are:

- **Property Taxes – Tax revenue at a proposed rate of \$0.360778, which is the same rate as 2012. There has been no tax increase since 2008, and this will require additional hearings before adoption of the tax rate.**
- **Water & Sewer Rates – A 4.5% increase in water and sewer rates is proposed. This will add \$1.58 per month to the minimum customer and \$3.05 per month for the average customer.**

Digital Recording on file

Mr. Grant noted that the Step & Grade Plan added a step #14 and added new levels for Firefighters that are Paramedics. There is no additional COLA increases budgeted, but additional funds were budgeted for the Police Department to increase salaries for dispatchers and patrol officers.

Very few capital improvements requests remained in the budget. Almost all rolling stock, a mosquito sprayer, and mower for the cemetery were cut.

Funds were included to continue the first time paving initiative. There is \$190,000, which includes the payment for the Asphalt Zipper. There was discussion about streets planned for paving this year and next year.

Mr. Grant discussed the proposed budget department-by-department and there was discussion of needs of each department:

- Streets – Discuss Lease Principal increase and costs for materials and paving.
- Police – No new vehicles this year. Merit increases for dispatchers and patrol officers of \$20,000.
- Fire – discuss financing new radios to meet Federal standards.
- Cemetery – New Mower request that was cut at a cost of \$20,000 could be financed over three years or paid from the Perpetual Care Fund. Commissioners decided to put that on a wish list to possibly be added back to the budget.
- Court – discuss salaries and staffing and state court costs. Mr. Grant said he would meet with staff and present a plan to the Commission in the near future.
- Aquatic Center – discussion of revenue and expenses.
- EMS – discuss staffing (Paramedics) and shared costs with Wilbarger County and Wilbarger General Hospital. No new ambulances were included in the budget. There was also discussion of standby at football games and rodeos.
- Parks – there was discussion of personnel, capital improvement cuts, possible grants for planning and trails, and a comprehensive plan and parks plan. The need to replace the twenty-five year old mosquito sprayer was discussed, and placed on the wish list of items that might be added back into the budget.
- Community Development – note that there are less disposal fees for building demolition.
- Building & Grounds – included a plotter to make signs and banners in house.
- Special Items – includes a requested increase for the library and civil defense.
- Main Street – Continued financing of façade grants are included along with Hotel Occupancy Tax funds for grants.
- Utility Fund – discussion of increased water and sewer rates; the nitrate plant startup; inclusion of Laserfische software and new hardware costs; water leaks on the main transmission line and costs of repairs; use of the 2009 bond funds to pay for those repairs; engineering costs for the wastewater treatment plant.
- Minor funds – there was discussion of the HOT funds. It was noted that there would be more work on these minor funds before adoption of the budget.

Digital Recording on file

PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A TAX RATE

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to place a proposal to adopt a tax rate of \$0.360778 on the agenda of the Regular City Commission Meeting on August 28, 2012.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded that motion, with all members present voting for unanimous approval.

SET DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to hold two (2) public hearings on the proposed tax rates on August 16 and August 20 at 5:00 pm in the City Commission Chambers.

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

ADJOURN

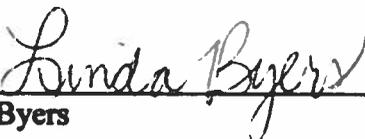
Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

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



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary