

DeFuniak Springs City Council

Budget Workshop

August 24, 2009

The DeFuniak Springs City Council met in Budget Session at 5:30 PM with the following members present: Mayor C. Harold Carpenter; City Council Members: Don Harrison, James Coffield, Henry Ennis, Wayne Graham; City Manager Kim Kirby, Clay Adkinson standing in for City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Finance Director Sara Bowers, and City Clerk Susie Campbell-Work. Mayor Pro-Tem James Huffman and City Attorney Clayton Adkinson were absent.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order

The items for discussion were to continue forward with the items from the last Budget Workshop.

SALARIES, CITY MANAGER KIM KIRBY:

City Manager Kim Kirby reminded the Council that in the past, the Council has set the salary for the Chief of Police, City Manager, Finance Director, and City Clerk. She presented the Council with current salaries for the Chief of Police, City Manager, and Finance Director which also provided information on a 2% COLA and up to a 2% Merit. Mrs. Kirby asked for clarification on the Chief of Police's salary and whether or not the position should receive merit. Mrs. Kirby asked for any questions.

Mayor Carpenter asked if the Chief of Police's merit date would be the anniversary of his election. Mrs. Kirby said that it could be done that way upon the Council's consensus. She stated that the Chief is different because he is elected and not appraised. The other City employees are appraised and the merit is from their date of hire. She said that they have the option of granting merit for Chief Weeks, but should it be at his anniversary or elected date. Mrs. Kirby told the Council it would be at their discretion.

Mayor Carpenter asked the Council for a recommendation. Mrs. Kirby directed the Council's attention to the handout with figures and options.

Wayne Graham made a recommendation to set the City Marshall's (Chief of Police's) salary at the second column with the Merit pay effective one year from Election Day. Consensus was made by the Council for the 2% COLA and the 2% Merit pay.

Kim Kirby thanked the Mayor and the Council.

Further discussion was made by Don Harrison regarding the other salaries. He wanted to know if consensus was needed on the other proposed salaries. Kim Kirby told him that the City Clerk's salary was approved during a past meeting after a recommendation was made by Don Harrison. Mayor Carpenter said consensus was needed, for the record, for the salaries of City Manager and Finance Director.

James Coffield made a recommendation to set both salaries at 2% COLA and 2% Merit effective on the anniversary date, in keeping with what has been done in past years. Consensus was given from the Council.

BALANCING THE BUDGET, MAYOR CARPENTER:

Mayor Carpenter spoke about the consensus process to help move the budget forward. He said that during this process he wanted everything to be considered so the City can reach a bottom line in the reserves. Mayor Carpenter said that now that they have reached that point, and now that they know the amount of reserves needed to balance the budget, they need to go back and see where they can cut some costs. He commended the staff on an outstanding job in putting together the budget. He informed the Council that now it was their job to finish balancing the budget. Mayor Carpenter stressed that with the economy the way that it is, they need to be careful with their money.

Mayor Carpenter brought their attention to the budget information. After everyone found their copy, he continued on with suggestions. He told the Council he wanted their input to balance the budget. The first item he suggested was the Council Chamber Chairs, for the Council and audience. He informed them that the chairs were \$10,000. He said they have been used for 42 years. Mayor Carpenter suggested that they be used for another year and that they be cut out of the budget. He asked for the Council's consensus. Consensus was given to take the chairs out of the budget.

Mayor Carpenter continued with his second suggestion, Purchasing Agent. He said he spent a lot of time justifying the position. He said he would like the Council to reconsider the position and rewrite the Purchasing Policy. He informed the Council that the position would cost about \$50,000 a year.

James Coffield asked to be excused for a minute (to take a call on his cell phone).

Discussion continued. Mayor Carpenter said that he wanted to get to the bottom line to know where the budget stands. Don Harrison was in favor of taking the Purchasing Agent out of the budget. Wayne Graham said that he is in favor of having the Purchasing Agent. Henry Ennis spoke against having the position. James Coffield entered back into the Chambers and the Mayor informed him that they were waiting on consensus about the Purchasing Agent. Mr. Coffield said that he is in favor of taking it out of the budget. After the Council had spoken, consensus was to remove the purchasing agent from the budget.

The third item was in regards to the Police Department. Mayor Carpenter started by going on record stating that the Police Officer they would be hiring would not be a Public Information Officer. It would be a sworn Officer that is on the streets. He asked the Chief if that was correct. Chief Mark Weeks stated that was correct. Mayor Carpenter then recommended that one of the patrol cars be moved from the budget, leaving one new vehicle and a \$25,000 savings. Don Harrison said that was his original position. Mr. Graham, Mr. Ennis, and Mr. Coffield also agreed to take it out. Consensus was 4-0 to approve the Police Officer and only one vehicle for the Police Department.

The fourth item was in regards to the Fire Department. Mayor Carpenter said that he needed further clarification about the phone system. He said that if it was needed, he had no problem with it. However, if it was not, he suggested that it be removed from the budget. Don Harrison suggested leaving some money in the budget and letting it be an item of discussion after the budget passed. He said to leave maybe \$3,500 in the budget. He wanted Chief Coley to come back and present to the Council why he needed a new phone system. Mayor Carpenter thanked him for his suggestion. Mr. Ennis, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Coffield agreed to put \$3,500 in the budget for the Fire Department Phone System and also have Chief Coley come back and present the need for the new system at a later date.

The final item was in regards to the Sanitation Department. Mayor Carpenter said the Trash Truck for \$130,000 needed to be removed. He stated that the City employs two mechanics and he would like for them to try and repair the other truck. He said that if it could not be repaired, they could make a purchase later in the year sometime. He said the \$130,000 comes out of balancing the reserves and he sees no difference in waiting until they desperately need the truck to make the purchase. Mr. Ennis agreed to take it out. Don Harrison asked if it was scheduled to come out of Sanitation Reserves. Mrs. Bowers said she believed so. Mr. Harrison said that if it is coming out of the Sanitation Reserves, it is not going to put them below where they were last year in reserves. He said that if they don't do it now, they are going to have to do it next year. He was concerned about how the budget would be next year. Mr. Graham agreed to take it out, as well as Mr. Coffield. Consensus was given by the Council to remove the \$130,000 for the truck out of the budget.

Mayor Carpenter thanked the Council for providing a good, workable budget. He asked Sara Bowers if she had anything for the Council.

FINANCE, SARA BOWERS:

Mrs. Bowers said she would like the Council to meet again August 25, 2009 and she would provide a new balanced budget. She said the Revenue Pie Chart would stay the same, but the Expenditure Pie Chart would change. Mrs. Bowers said that she wanted the Council to have a balanced budget before they go into a public hearing. A time of 5:15pm was set for the meeting. Don Harrison asked what would be a better; to discuss the Fire Department Phone System tomorrow night at the meeting or at a future meeting. Mrs. Bowers said to let her go ahead and provide a balanced budget tomorrow night at the meeting. She said she would put \$3,500 in the budget for the new phone system and if approved and \$1,500 more was needed, it would not be a problem to adjust in the budget. Mr. Harrison asked Chief Coley to provide the Council with his new phone system presentation at the August 25, 2009 meeting. Chief Coley agreed. Consensus was given to discuss at the August 25, 2009 meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Wayne Graham had a couple of concerns for the Mayor and the Council. He said it was under the Shop Department, the ATF recovery system. He said that most of the City vehicles are new and wanted to know if it was necessary to have a system to put Freon in the vehicles. Bill Holloway said that it was needed. He said that it was saving the City money by them doing it themselves. Mr. Graham said he had no further question.

Mr. Ennis had no questions or comments.

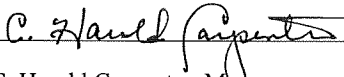
Mr. Harrison said that his only concern was with the Merit Pay System. He said that 92% of employees getting the higher merit pays was too much and would like to see a stricter use of the Merit Pay.

Mr. Coffield did not have any questions or comments.

Mrs. Kirby had nothing further for the Council.

There being no further business, Mayor C. Harold Carpenter adjourned the meeting.

ADOPTED this 26th day of October, 2009



C. Harold Carpenter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Elizabeth S. Campbell-Work, City Clerk