

DeFuniak Springs City Council
2020 Fiscal Year Budget, First Public Hearing
Minutes
September 10, 2019

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Robert McKnight, Councilmembers: Kevin Crystal, Henry D Ennis Sr., and Wayne Graham; Mell Smigielski, City Manager; Debra Gibson, Finance Director; Clayton Adkinson, City Attorney and City Clerk Maryanne Schrader. Todd Bierbaum was excused.

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. He turned the meeting over to Mell who turned the meeting over to the finance department. Debra said we are here to discuss the budget.

Tentative Millage Rate

City Attorney Clayton Adkinson stated this was the first public hearing on the 2020 fiscal year budget and tentative millage that was advertised. Clayton said that a motion was needed to adopt the mill rate. He said the Council could adopt a 5% mill or a 4.5%. He said we need the percentage of increase over the rollback rate. The current rollback rate is 4.3709 that would generate the same amount of ad valorem taxes generated last year. He added the Council could go down but historically the rate has been 4.5. If you adopt the 4.5, it is greater than the rollback rate of 3.079 by 2.95%.

He added the tentative budget is \$30,346,111. So the first order of business is to adopt the tentative millage rate.

Mayor Campbell said there was a verbal consent to approve the 4.5 mill rate.

Councilmember Crystal said he thought we agreed to 4.5 mills. Debra Gibson agreed that it was originally 5.0 in the budget, but was changed in the budget to 4.5.

Motion by Councilmember Crystal and seconded by Councilmember Ennis to adopt a millage rate for the 2020 fiscal budget year at 4.5 mills.

Councilmember McKnight asked if this was on Line 26 of the certification of taxing value and if we were locking in the rate at 4.5 by this action. Clayton Adkinson said it is on Line 17, as the proposed operating millage rate. Mell responded to Councilmember McKnight that Line 26 and 17 were the same.

City Attorney Adkinson added the millage rate of 4.5 is greater than the rollback rate of 4.3709 by 2.95%.

Councilmember Crystal: Aye; Councilmember McKnight: Aye; Councilmember Ennis: Aye; and Councilmember Graham: Aye. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Tentative 2020 Fiscal Budget

City Attorney Clayton Adkinson said the next order of business is we need a motion to adopt the tentative budget of \$30,346,111 for the 2020 fiscal budget year.

Councilmember McKnight asked about a possible error in the printout. The number would affect the budget by over a quarter of a million dollars. He said on page 3 in the small print of the budget on the fifth or sixth line from the bottom, the FEMA mitigation grant. He understood the grant was from Hurricane Michael of \$30,000. Debra said it was correct, as it was two separate grants. She said to look at the FEMA mitigation grant of 300,000 dollars, which was included.

Motion by Councilmember McKnight and seconded by Councilmember Ennis to adopt the tentative operating budget of \$30,346,111 for the FY2020 budget year.

Councilmember Crystal: Aye; Councilmember McKnight: Aye; Councilmember Ennis: Aye; and Councilmember Graham: Aye. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Final Budget Hearing Date

City Attorney Clayton Adkinson announced the setting of the final budget hearing for Friday, September 20, 2019, at 5:01 p.m. at the Defuniak Springs Community Center.

Motion by Councilman Crystal and seconded by Councilman Ennis to set the final FY 2020 budget Public Hearing date for September 20, 2019, at 5:01 p.m. at the Defuniak Springs Community Center.

Councilmember Crystal: Aye; Councilmember McKnight Aye; Councilmember Ennis: Aye; and Councilmember Graham: Aye. **Motion carried 4-0.**
All ayes.

Councilmember McKnight asked if we were to take public comments tonight, as this is a public hearing. Attorney Clayton Adkinson said we could only take public comment on the budget.

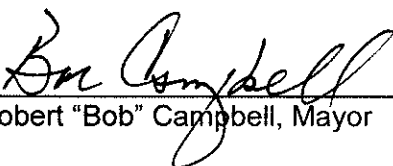
At 5:43 pm. Melinda Henderson came forward and said she would like to see the millage rate increased. She would like to see matching grants and something that we really need. She believes the Council has been very conservative with spending.

Councilmember Crystal asked what kind of things she would like to see improved. Mrs. Henderson said the Council mentioned matching funds for grants that could give you a pot of money. As Mr. Mell told her about \$140,000 would give funds for something that could come along that they didn't budget for, so it would be an emergency fund.

Attorney Clayton Adkinson said he will prepare the notices and the resolutions to adopt the budget.


Mayor Campbell adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

ADOPTED this 10th day of September 2019.



Robert "Bob" Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk