

**DeFuniak Springs City Council  
Budget Workshop Minutes  
Community Center  
August 4, 2020**

Present: Mayor B. Campbell, Councilmember Bierbaum, Councilmember H. Ennis, Councilmember K. Crystal, Councilmember W. Graham, Councilmember R. McKnight. Also, in attendance: City Manager Mell Smigielski, Finance Director Debra Gibson, Finance Supervisor Morgan Hulion, and Deputy City Manager Carisse LeJeune.

Mayor called meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and then turned the meeting over to City Manager Smigielski.

City Manager presented the City Council with a balanced budget.

- The four (4) volunteer Firefighters, Airport Administrative Assistance are not paid out of the General Fund.
- Christmas Reflections are not paid out of the General Fund, and all pay increases have been taken out.
- A new City Hall would require sale of the old facility. The City can purchase through a GO Bond and also fund the much-needed firetruck for \$500K, bringing the total bond amount to \$3M. Add the street focus for Live Oak bringing total GO Bond amount to \$3.3M
- Under IT, the city does not have fiber and needs new computers to the amount of \$10K. Other necessary software includes Public Records, Agenda Management, Records Management and ADA compliance for the website.
- All previous items are in the current budget.

Next the City Manager presented the scoring for the non-profits.

- There was no score for Mainstreet, Tri-County or EDA. These are funding by contract.
- The scoring reflects meeting certain criteria. City Manager read the criteria out loud.
- The score ranking does not guarantee a certain percentage

City Council allowed for non-profit presentations up to 3 minutes each. After the presentations there was discussion by the City Council.

The general consensus was to fund the non-profits that scored 3.2 or higher and the rest of the applicants would receive \$600.00 each, totaling \$58,364.00. Councilmember Crystal suggested that next year there should be a cap on the maximum amount that can be requested. Mayor Campbell called for a recess.

The City Manager moved on to department presentations. Public Works Director Craig Drake gave the Public Works presentation. City Manager Smigielski brought to the City Council's attention that in the revenue-over-expense sheets that were distributed to the City Council, every

one of them were at zero or better. The goal was to bring the general fund to zero and that goal was met.

Public Works Director Craig Drake gave an overview of the Public Works Budget. He stated that one of the department's goals is to have accredited supervisors. So far one supervisor has received their certification this year. He then went on to point out the line items that changed from last year's budget and answered questions regarding the individual line items.

There was discussion related to the Administration Fees coming out of the Gas, Water and Sewer Department budgets, and how the amount is calculated. The Finance Director, Debra Gibson explained that the fees include a portion of personnel salaries from other departments other than customer billing, such as Dispatch and Fire, for example.

Moving on to Sanitation, Public Works Director Craig Drake asked if there were any questions. Councilmember R. McKnight asked if there was a line item for private vendors. City Manager Smigielski stated that there is not, but that might change in October this year.

The discussion then turned to Transportation with Councilmember R. McKnight suggesting that the City consider the construction of more sidewalks, bike lanes and bike signs, and looking to other areas of transportation beside just roads and streets.

Councilmember T. Bierbaum asked about the line item for Railroad Crossings. The Public Works Director explained that the City pays the Railroad Company to cross over their tracks.

Councilmember T. Bierbaum stated that he would support leaving \$300K in the budget for paving and the Public Works Director Craig Drake responded that we should replace the existing, aging infrastructure in sections before repaving the section. City Manager Smigielski stated that the millage rate was previously discussed and what the .5 increase would pay for. He suggested that if the City Council wanted to bond \$1M we could do the repaving. Councilmember T. Bierbaum said he would support that if Staff could present a plan, and he would like to see signs at the work sites that read, "your tax dollars at work."

Councilmember K. Crystal asked if the Purchasing Agent position was removed from the budget and the City Manager confirmed that the position is not in the budget at this point.

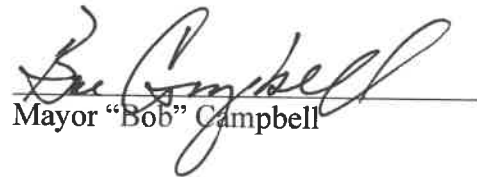
Councilmember K. Crystal stated that he believed the Purchasing Agent position is important because over time it will save the City money. Having a person monitoring purchasing and finding the best pricing is priceless in the long run. Councilmember T. Bierbaum stated he was willing to trade out the Visitor Center Position for the Purchasing Agent Position.

Councilmember R. McKnight agreed that the Purchasing Agent is important and would also support that position over the Visitor Center Position right now.

City Manager Smigielski stated that the next step in the budget process is to meet in two (2) weeks and finalize the budget. Staff will make the recommended adjustments and bring back an updated document for City Council review. City Manager Smigielski asked is the City Council wanted to budget for raises for employees and put back in the 1%. Councilmember K. Crystal stated that raises were given last year and this year the City needs to deal with infrastructure issues, so he is not in favor of giving raises this year. Councilmember T. Bierbaum suggested that the Mercer Group raises be left in. Councilmember McKnight concurred and said perhaps they could re-visit the issue mid-year.

Mayor Campbell adjourned the workshop at 7:19 p.m.

Approved:

  
Mayor "Bob" Campbell

Attest:

  
Minutes taken by Carisse LeJeune  
Deputy City Manager

Minutes submitted by Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk  
*Proper notice having been duly given*

