

DeFuniak Springs City Council
Budget Workshop
July 19, 2010

The DeFuniak Springs City Council met in Workshop Session at 5:15 PM with the following members present: Mayor C. Harold Carpenter; Mayor Pro-Tem James Huffman; City Council Members: Don Harrison, James Coffield, Henry Ennis, Wayne Graham; City Manager Kim Kirby, Finance Director Sara Bowers, City Clerk Jonathan King.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order and turned the workshop over to Kim Kirby.

Kim Kirby turned over the floor to Sara Bowers to speak about revenues. Sara Bowers noted that the revenues were basically the same. She noted that almost every area is just the same as the previous year. She asked for questions from the Council. No questions were asked.

Sara Bowers also noted that the proposed millage rate would need to be set at the next City Council Meeting.

Don Harrison said that it was unfortunate that a millage rate would need to be set before expenditures had been decided. Sara Bowers noted that it was a tentative rate. Kim Kirby said that the City Attorney had recommended setting the tentative millage rate high, so that the Council had some time to figure out the expenditures needed.

Don Harrison noted that he was against raising the millage rate in any form. He noted that if some rational evidence that the raising of the millage rate was needed, he would be more inclined to consider an increase. Sara Bowers said that she was just presenting the information and was not taking a position on the issue.

Wayne Graham asked about a comparison between last years budget. Sara Bowers noted that it appears that we will meet the budgeted income, however a growth was not expected.

James Huffman noted that it would be nice to see into the future, but we needed to work our proposed expenditures into the income expected. He noted that the Council in previous years had not raised the millage rate and he didn't believe the millage rate should be raised at this time.

Mayor Carpenter noted that it was apparent that a consensus had been made to hold the millage rate where it is currently, but that staff needed to be advised of whether they could depend on some reserve funding to make up the difference.

James Huffman said that the City needed to do what households are doing and stay within the revenues coming. Don Harrison said that the City should grow with its citizens.

Kim Kirby noted that Staff's biggest challenge will be attempting to maintain the level of service that has been offered.

Mayor Carpenter asked if the Council was prepared to move forward to another issue. He acknowledged their response and returned the floor to Kim Kirby.

Kim Kirby presented the organizational requests that had been submitted for the Councils consideration. Don Harrison said that he felt the Council needed to attempt to keep the amount of contribution at the same level as the previous year. Kim Kirby asked if this was the direction of the Council. James Huffman noted that it was difficult to decide that at this time. The general consensus of the Council was to basically maintain the level of organizational contributions as in last year.

Discussion followed concerning creating some policies to govern facility use rates and waivers.

Kim Kirby said that this was all she had for the Council.

Don Harrison said that he was planning on being out of town and would miss the August 3rd Workshop. Mayor Carpenter said that he felt it was important for the Council to be present and asked for the Workshop to be moved. Kim Kirby said that she would try to move it to the 5th of August.

Mayor Carpenter opened the floor

Jo-Ellen Reid, representing the Northwest Florida Chapter of the American Red Cross, approached the Council. She said that she wished to address some misnomers about the Red Cross and how they raise their monies. She noted that each chapter had to raise their own funds and were not funded by the National Red Cross. She noted that the money donated by the City would stay in the area to be used for disasters in our community. She said that the Red Cross handles disasters on a daily basis such as house fires in our community. James Huffman asked if they made requests of other governmental agencies. Jo-Ellen Reid said that they did request from other groups. Wayne Graham asked how many families had been helped in DeFuniak Springs over the last year. Jo-Ellen Reid said that she did not know the number specifically. She noted that she could get that information if requested.

Mayor Carpenter said that the construction date for the traffic signal at Shoemaker was September 15, 2010. He noted that the signal at Shoemaker should be completed by the middle of November. He also stated that the traffic signal at Coy Burgess would be completed by the end of August.

There being no further business, Mayor Carpenter adjourned the Workshop at 6:07 PM.

ADOPTED this 9th day of August, 2010

C. Harold Carpenter

C. Harold Carpenter, Mayor

ATTEST:

King

Jonathan D. King, City Clerk