

DeFuniak Springs City Council
Budget Workshop
August 5, 2014

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Henry D Ennis Sr., Councilman Mac Work, Councilman Ron Kelley, Councilman Mac Carpenter, Councilman Kermit Wright, City Manager Sara Bowers, Finance Director Tom Carman and City Clerk Loretta Laird.

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order with City Manager Sara Bowers indicating the budget workshop session agenda included the organizational funding requests, employee salary discussion, and further revenue and expenditures discussion.

City Manager Bowers discussed the organizational request summary which included Tri-County Community, Walton County Council on Aging and Walton County Economic Alliance amounts already included in the 2015 fiscal year budget. Discussion occurred relating to the addition of the Walton County Council on Aging facility and the Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood Foundation increasing their funding request.

Councilman Work suggested giving all the organizations the same amount as last year and if a less amount was requested, then that amount would be received during the 2015 fiscal year.

Councilman Carpenter suggested the council return to the organizational request after the majority of the budget has been completed, and further stated he would be recommending additional budget items for the 2015 budget. Bowers stated that staff needed direction as to what items were not included in the proposed budget.

City Manager Bowers discussed the proposed employee pay rate increases to include employees receiving a \$.06 pay rate increase if their base salary was below \$60,000 plus the following: employees making less than \$30,000 would receive a three-percent increase; employees making between \$30,000 and \$60,000 would receive a two-percent increase; and employees making over \$60,000 would receive a one-percent increase. The proposed budget includes the city manager and finance director position's pay increase. Bowers also discussed employees having a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) prior to employment with the city would be increased by \$.50 and new hires would receive an additional \$1 per hour with a CDL license as long as the position required the CDL license. Kim Hagen would receive the \$.06 across the board plus her 2 percent and \$2 per hour pay increase due to a title change. Assistant City Manager Tilman Mears would receive a one-percent increase plus an additional \$5,000 per year.

Bowers further stated the council sets the salary for the city manager, finance director, police chief, and council.

Councilman Carpenter discussed not having the information prior to the budget workshop meeting. Carpenter further indicated staff needs to go through the comprehensive plan and zoning code and suggested assistance from an outside source to assist staff.

Consensus of the council was to follow the proposed recommendation for salary increases as follows: a \$.06 salary increase for those employees making less than \$60,000 per year along with providing a three-percent increase for employees making less than \$30,000; a two-percent increase for employees making between \$30,000 and \$60,000 and a one-percent increase for employees making over \$60,000. Kim Hagen would receive an additional \$2.00 per hour due to a title change and Assistant City Manager Tilman Mears would receive an additional \$5,000 annual pay increase.

Existing employees with a CDL license obtained prior to employment, would receive an additional \$.50 per hour, while other existing employees who have obtained their CDL license during their tenure would continue to receive \$.50 per hour. Any new employees hired with a CDL license would receive an additional \$1.00 over the minimum pay rate. Discussion occurred relating to the proposed budget being balanced and the organizational requests as presented.

Consensus occurred relating to the organizational requests being funded at the same amount as in the 2014 fiscal budget year, but if a reduced amount was proposed then that amount would be budgeted with the exception of the Walton County Council on Aging receiving a one-time \$3,000 in the 2015 fiscal year budget.

Bowers indicated the next budget workshop is scheduled for August 19, 2014 to finalize the 2015 budget. Consensus of the council was to reschedule the August 26, 2014, budget workshop to August 28, 2014, due to the primary election with the first public hearing on September 11, 2014.

There being no further business, Mayor Campbell adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

ADOPTED this 25th day August, 2014



Mayor Robert "Bob" Campbell

ATTEST:



Loretta A. Laird, City Clerk