

MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held in the meeting room in City Hall on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of adoption of the 2014-2015 Budget.

PRESENT

Percy J. Purnell, Jr., Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Raymond D. Anderson, Councilman
Kimberly B. Lawson, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift. (see list of others in attendance)

Mayor Purnell called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Purnell opened the meeting and advised that this was the fourth budget meeting in a series. Mayor Purnell reviewed the shortage page and other items and possible solutions and tax increase alternatives.

At this time, Councilman Atkins reviewed a chart of 8 possible solutions for the 2014-2015 Budget. He asked the Council to consider voting for the option #8 split, which would implement a tax increase of 81 cents for owner occupied housing, 87 cents for all others, an increase of \$1.00 each in water and sewer, and a budget cut of \$45K each, in Police and Water

and Sewer.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that he had not seen this solutions spread sheet, but also commented that if he received it, it hadn't read it. Councilman Atkins assured him that everyone had received the email.

Councilman Konapelsky also made reference to an article concerning split tax rate. He advised that he cannot justify taking \$45K from water & sewer and police. He advised that he feels option #1 which was a 95 cent increase in taxes to owner occupied housing and a 95 cent increase to all others, would be fair to all.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that she had read the spread sheet. She made reference to option #1, but added that CPD would need to cut their overtime. She also advised that she would be in favor of option #3 and #5.

Councilman Lawson commented that he had been urged to be cautious due to the upcoming election. He went on to review the history of the rise and fall of taxes and assessments. He commented that there is no money for paving streets or any type of urban revitalization.

Councilman Lawson advised that residents need to insist that the County participate in revenue sharing with the City. He advised that all that the City receives is \$157 K for the Ambulance Squad.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the City would have to amend the budget, once a decision has been made, as it had already been adopted for First Reader.

Councilman Atkins commented that option #1 is the highest tax rate for everyone.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that #1 is fair across the board.

Mr. David Marquis made reference to there being no public Input permitted at this meeting, and commented that denial of any public input was a violation of the Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the only obligation of the City was to allow the public to attend.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept option #1. The motion died due to lack of a 2nd.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept option #7. The motion died due to lack of a 2nd.

At this time, Councilman Lawson made a motion to adopt option #5, which entailed an .87 cent property tax rate for owner-occupied housing, .87 cent property tax rate for all others, a \$1.00 monthly increase in both water and sewer, a zero cut in the police budget and a \$45K cut in the water and sewer budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and opposed by Councilman Konapelsky, with a vote of four to one in favor of option #5.

At this time, Mr. Sullivan advised that to amend the budget to reflect option #5, each line of the front page should be reviewed and the necessary amendments made individually.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to amend line five going into line six to

strike "Occupied Commercial" (rules by resolution) Real Property.

Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson, abstained by Councilman Konapelsky and carried by a vote of 4 to 1.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to amend lines 6 and 7 to strike and One dollar and one cents \$1.01 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessable on "all other" Real property. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson, abstained by Councilman Konapelsky and carried by a vote of 4 to 1.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to strike in line 4 - eighty one forty five Cents (\$.8145) and replace with eighty seven cents (\$.87). Motion seconded by Councilman Lawson, abstained by Councilman Konapelsky, and carried by a vote of 4 to 1.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to strike on page 2, the written in figures of .81 and 1.01. Motion seconded by Councilman Lawson, abstained by Councilman Konapelsky, and carried by a vote of 4 to 1.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the budget could be adopted for 2nd reader, noting that Mrs. Morgan would amend the expense and revenue to reflect the \$.87 increased rate adopted.

At this time, Councilman Atkins read the entire 2014-2015 Budget aloud. He then made a motion to adopt the amended 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance # 637 for Second Reader, as revised to reflect the \$.87 tax rate per \$100 of assessable property, in revenue and expense.

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Motion seconded by Councilman Lawson, abstained by Councilman Konapelsky and carried with a vote of 4 to 1.

With no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary