

**TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
JUNE 20, 2006
6:00PM**

After due notice to the press, Mayor and Town Council met in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Mayor and all Council were present.

1) Discussion of the following:

(a) Town of Pendleton's Budget FY 2006/2007:

Teri Sloan, Town Administrator gave an overview of the proposed budget and answered Councils questions.

(b) Proposed Water/Sewer Rate Increase:

Chuck Joye, Design South Professionals made a presentation to Council and answered questions regarding a proposed water/sewer rate increase.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted: _____

MAYOR: _____

COUNCIL:

WARD 1: _____

WARD 2: _____

WARD 3: _____

WARD 4: _____

**TOWN COUNCIL
CALLED MEETING
JUNE 20, 2006
7:00PM**

After due notice to the press, Mayor and Town Council met in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Mayor and all Council were present.

Add the Following Item to the Agenda:

Request for funds for Salcahatchee Project. Frank Crenshaw made a motion to add the above item to the agenda. Sandra Gantt seconded. Unanimous.

1) Public Hearing to receive citizens input on the following:

(a) Town of Pendleton's Budget FY 2006/2007.

(b) Town of Pendleton's Proposed Water/Sewer rate increase.

Teri Sloan, Town Administrator gave an overview of the Budget FY 2006/2007. Chuck Joye, Design South Professionals made a presentation regarding the necessary proposed water/sewer rate increase.

Mayor Burdette opened the floor for public comments:

Bill Kester stated that it seemed to him that with such a major rate increase the town would see major conservation and asked how that would impact the situation. Chuck Joye stated that with his experience, in time, people return to their old habits and does not anticipate conservation to be an issue.

Scott Ward asked for an overview on how the water storage process works. Chuck Joye gave an overview of the economics of the water system.

Timothy Hume stated the budget meant absolutely nothing to him since he could not see what the increases in the budget represent, and could not even begin to address his questions in three minutes. On the water, he stated the town is full of people using the minimum usage and does not feel it fair for these people to subsidize for the rest of the people. He does not like the idea of minimums which are impacting people who can not afford them. He further stated that it is not the citizen's fault that it took four years to find out we are in a hole. He stated he felt it was wrong to jump the rates up at this incredible speed to cover a mistake made, with all do respect, whoever made it and stated he really resented this.

Bill VonMeyer stated he was concerned that the actions Council is taking are compressed in time, almost as if Council does not want the public to have the chance to read something or not think about it.

Timothy Hume stated he heard of this meeting from someone who was interested enough to tell him. He stated that when he left town on Saturday morning he drove past Town Hall to see if a notice was on the Town Hall board and the board was blank so he thought the information was wrong and no meeting was being held. He stated nothing was on either town board the night before as well. So to make sure he called Town Hall and received the incorrect time. He stated he has the uncomfortable feeling the Council wants to talk to citizens at election time but really does not want to hear from citizens for the next four years. He does not feel part of the process and stated there are a lot of intelligent people in the town who love the town as much as Council who would love to be a part of this process even if it is just advisory. He further stated he felt excluded and asked Council to reschedule this public hearing regarding the water and sewer rates and the budget until people have time to realize what is being proposed.

Mayor Burdette thanked Mr. Hume for his comments and stated that on June 5, the Town Councils Regular Meeting night, Chuck Joye made a presentation very similar to the one he made this evening and tonight's meeting was scheduled and announced at the Regular Session of Town Council. Mayor Burdette also stated the new sign on Mechanic Street was just completed on Friday.

Brian Gantt stated he would like to know what is the discrepancy between what the town is buying and billing for water. Chuck Joye stated between the amount of water the town buys and the amount of water the town sells is called water loss. The town is at a 35% to 40% water loss and is seeking to reach 20% to 25%.

Mijuan Gantt addressed Council asking why they can't slowly up the rates instead of having such a dramatic increase at one time. Why can't the town spend some of the money it has saved from the Police Department? Mayor Burdette stated there are two funds, the General Fund and the Water/Sewer Fund. The General Fund is where the Police Department Budget is and that savings has been pledged to be put into a reserve account and therefore cannot make up the difference in the Water/Sewer Fund.

Suzanne Harney addressed Council and asked them to consider how things could be done a little better in a positive way to notify citizens of meetings. She stated the water/sewer rate issue would mostly affect the

elderly and the poor and does not feel the word has gotten to these communities so their opinions could be expressed. She also stated she feels it is unfortunate that no one had been looking a little closer as to what the economics were here so that it could have been a gradual rate increase. She also stated she was just aware of the fact that if someone was not purchasing the minimum number, they are paying the minimum amount. Mayor Burdette stated it was widespread that water companies have a minimum charge.

Joe Pearson addressed Council regarding Pendleton Mobile Homes and asked how the town would bill customers like him and apartment complexes who have only one master meter and one sewer outlet like an individual house. He feels that treating them with a minimum is grossly unfair and asked that Council seriously revisit this aspect.

Mayor Burdette stated that Council will take into consideration citizens input and look into them further.

Mayor Burdette closed the Public Hearing.

2) First Reading of the following:

(a) "An Ordinance allowing the Town of Pendleton to enter into an Intergovernmental service contract with the Anderson County Sheriff's Department to provide general law enforcement services to the Town of Pendleton and granting Anderson County Sheriff's Department authority to enforce Municipal Ordinances"

Frank Crenshaw made a motion to accept Ordinance 06-09 for first reading. Denise Jackson seconded. Unanimous.

(b) "An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 05-03 The Town of Pendleton's Sewer Use Ordinance"

Frank Crenshaw stated he felt this should be held off and Council look at all input. All Council were in agreement. Mayor Burdette stated that whatever the increase is, it will not go into effect until the August billing. She also stated that she would like Council to look into the possibility of setting aside X amount of money that could be used in a crisis situation and regulated and allocated through Clemson Community Care for Pendleton residents.

3) Second and Final Reading of the following:

(a) "An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Pendleton's Budget FY 2005/2006"

Frank Crenshaw made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 06-07 for second and final reading. Bruce Kalley seconded. Unanimous.

(b) "An Ordinance to Adopt the Town of Pendleton's Budget FY 2006/2007"

All Council were in agreement to hold a Work Session with Department Heads before second and final reading. The Work Session is scheduled for June 26, 2006, 7pm.

4) Land Plan Group South Contract to provide on-call services for Veteran's Park Master Plan projects:

Frank Crenshaw stated \$4,000 is budgeted and Council can amend this amount if need be. All Council were in agreement.

5) Request for funds for Salcahatchee Project:

Frank Crenshaw made a motion to subsidize their budget this year to cover the cost of dumpsters in the amount of \$1500 so the Salcahatchee Project will be able to rehab the front area of the Pendleton Community Center and five houses in town. Sandra Gantt seconded.

Denise Jackson abstained from voting due to being the President of the Pendleton Community Center. Final vote was 4 in favor and 1 abstaining from the vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted: _____

MAYOR: _____

COUNCIL:

WARD 1: _____

WARD 2: _____

WARD 3: _____

WARD 4: _____

