

TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 1, 2009
7:00PM

MINUTES:

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) Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the following:

- a. Tax Millage Increase.
- b. Town of Pendleton's Budget FY 2009/2010.

The Administrator gave an overview of the tax millage increase and the Town of Pendleton's Budget FY 2009/2010.

Public Comments:

Rob Carey stated he was not that concerned about the 5% increase, stating he felt this is minimal. He stated what concerns him is he only found three other towns with a tax millage rate higher than Pendleton's. Mayor Burdette stated there is a difference in the County's the towns are in that he is comparing Pendleton to.

Scott Ward stated that as a developer he is concerned with the tax increase stating that Central and Clemson's tax millage rate is below Pendleton's. Mayor Burdette stated that the Counties can't be compared due to some Counties having local option sales tax. Anderson County does not have the local option sales tax.

Michaela Norris stated that it is difficult to live in Pendleton with the high water rates and high millage rates. She stated that by raising the tax millage rate Pendleton will no longer continue to be a family friendly environment.

Scott Ward asked if there was a way not to have a property tax increase. Mayor Burdette stated the 2009/2010 budget decreased \$173,000 and the town was able to do this by cutting three employees from the Public Works Department. Also the substation will be closing due to no foot traffic at the location, which will save a substantial amount of money.

Bruce Kalley stated Council went through the budget item by item trying to reduce cost. He stated he felt the budget was cut to the bone.

Frank Crenshaw stated he has struggled back and forth with this and unless he is convinced otherwise he would suggest leaving the backhoe out of the budget and giving the people a break and not implement a tax increase during these hard economic times.

Sandra Gantt stated she has a problem with the backhoe. She would like the town to look at backhoe leasing options and not raise taxes.

Mayor Burdette stated if the leasing option for a backhoe is approved it would cost the town around \$24,000 per year for four years, stating they would need to come up with a way to pay that on a yearly basis.

2) Council Updates:

Mayor Burdette updated Council on the following –

~ The Fire Department's Community Day was a great success.

~The Farmers Market will begin this Thursday. Everyone is encouraged to support this event.

3) Review of Agenda Items:

Mayor Burdette gave a brief overview of agenda items.

4) Approval of Minutes:

Frank Crenshaw made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 4, 2009, Regular Session Meeting and the May 18, 2009, Called Meeting. Bruce Kalley seconded. Unanimous.

5) Public Comments:

Scott Ward stated he meets with a group to brainstorm different ideas for the town. He stated the group came across the concept of banners coming into town onto Mechanic Street from Hwy. 76. He stated Duke Energy owns the poles and it is a possibility to put banners on the poles. Duke Energy would like to know if the town favors this concept before discussing any further. Mayor Burdette stated this idea would be explored as long as the banners could be placed on both ends of Mechanic Street. She also stated that the poles may be too far spaced for this. The town Administrator stated that Scott would need to get with her because there are a lot of questions to be answered.

Beverly Reese stated there are orange cones on Hamberg Street where the road is washing away and would like something done. She also stated the grass is not being cut on the opposite side of the street from her house. Mayor Burdette stated the cones were placed by the County and the town would follow up on that.

Michaela Norris asked if the town would consider putting in a pedestrian crosswalk in front of the library. Mayor Burdette stated that is included in a federal grant the town has received. A sidewalk will also have to be installed before the crosswalk can be completed.

6) Request from Public Works for electrical work at Veterans Park:

Frank Crenshaw made a motion to grant the above request in the amount of \$785.87. Bruce Kalley seconded. Unanimous. This money will come from Hospitality Tax.

7) Request for Tax Anticipation Note:

Bruce Kalley made a motion to allow the Administrator to apply for a tax anticipation note in the amount of \$350,000. Frank Crenshaw seconded. Unanimous.

8) First Reading of the following:

- a. *“An Ordinance to increase the tax millage for the Town of Pendleton.*
- b. *“An Ordinance to Adopt the Town of Pendleton’s Budget FY 2009/2010.*

Frank Crenshaw made a motion to remove the backhoe from the budget and pass the budget for first reading without a tax increase. Sandra Gantt seconded. Unanimous.

Frank Crenshaw stated he would like more information on repairs and leasing the backhoe before second reading.

9) Approval of the following Event Applications:

- a. *Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks – Flag Day Ceremony – June 14, 2009.*
- b. *FreedomFest – June 27, 2009.*
- c. *Ellison and DeCosta Wedding – October 10, 2009.*

Sandra Gantt made a motion to remove the above items from the agenda and hold a meeting on this. Bruce Kalley seconded. Unanimous.

10) Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted: _____

MAYOR: _____

COUNCIL:

WARD 1: _____

WARD 2: _____

WARD 3: _____

WARD 4: _____