

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP
OF
MANNING CITY COUNCIL**

Tuesday, May 6, 2008
6:30 p.m

Breedin Assembly Room
City Hall

Members Present:

Mayor Johnson
Councilmember Davis
Mayor Pro-tem Gordon
Councilmember Georgia
Councilmember Pack
Councilmember Welle
Councilmember Witherspoon

- I. Welcome/Introductory Remarks:** Mayor Johnson welcomed all present and stated that the media was notified. Mayor Johnson acknowledged the following:

News Media: Bobby Baker, The Item

- II. Invocation:** Councilmember Ervin Davis.

- III. Pledge:** Councilmember Gregory Witherspoon.

Mayor Johnson stated that although the meeting was called to work on the proposed Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, he asked Council to allow him to add an item to the Agenda that would require action from Council.

Mayor Johnson stated that a few months ago, Council approved Chief Randy Garrett's request for permission to enter his name as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Clarendon County while still employed as Chief of Police for the City of Manning.

Next, Mayor Johnson stated that approval was given by Council eight years ago to Chief Garrett allowing him to enter his name as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Clarendon County. Mayor Johnson noted that Chief Garrett's first priority is his job as Chief of Police for the City of Manning. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that an issue had risen concerning the Federal Hatch Act Compliance Program that states that Federal Employees could not have any involvement in the management of federally funded programs while running for a political office. Then Mayor Johnson stated that Chief Garrett had contacted several law enforcement officials throughout the state and country who confirmed that he could run for a political office as long as another responsible employee within the Police Department administers the city's federal grants. Mayor Johnson stated that he could sign a memorandum stating that the Chief of Police would

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have no involvement in federal grants while running as a candidate for Sheriff. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that the memorandum had been reviewed by the city's Attorney and that a Resolution was prepared that would authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Witherspoon and was seconded by Mayor Protem Gordon to approve the Resolution. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

IV. Discussion of FY '08- '09 Budget:

Mayor Johnson that the state, counties, cities, political subdivisions and school districts are facing tough times due to the local spending caps passed by the legislature last year . Mayor Johnson stated that the spending caps limit the amount by which cities can raise taxes in order to meet the needs that must be addressed. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that Council must have a balanced budget that has had two readings and a Public Hearing June 30, 2008.

Next, Mayor Johnson thanked the Administrator and staff for their hard work in proposing a balanced budget. Next, Mayor Johnson turned the meeting over to Mrs. Rhodes to lead the discussion of the budget for fiscal year '09.

Mrs. Rhodes discussed the spending cap limits passed by the legislature which limits the amount of millage increase that a city can have. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the millage cap stipulates that each year the city's millage can only be increased by the cost of living plus the city's percentage of growth. Then Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city's percentage of growth was 1% and that the city is only allowed to increase millage by 2.9% which amounts to approximately \$30,000.00.

In addition, Mrs. Rhodes stated that, through the Municipal Association, a suggestion was made that each year municipalities increase their millage by the amount allowed by law. Mrs. Rhodes distributed to Council a draft of information reflecting major revenue and increases and expenditure items that were either added or removed from the budget after they were submitted by the Department Heads. Mrs. Rhodes stated that under the General Fund, the total revenue is \$3,264,584 and the total expenditures is \$3,367,989, leaving \$103,405 to be trimmed from the budget or carried forward from Fund Balance in order to balance the budget. Mrs. Rhodes reviewed each department's expenditures with Council and recommended that Council use Fund Balance to balance the General Fund Budget.

V. Discussion of Water/Sewer Tap Fees and Impact Fees.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that under the Utility Fund, the total revenue is \$1,955,480 and the total expenditures are \$1, 955,289, leaving a surplus of \$191. Mrs. Rhodes distributed to Council information on suggested tap and impact fees. In addition, Mrs. Rhodes stated that a water rate study performed by Engineering Resources Corporation several years

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ago recommended that Council increase water rates by \$4.00, increase impact and tap fees and to review the billing of water services. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the proposed budget includes the increased revenues for the tap and impact fees.

After further discussion, Mayor Johnson asked if there were any questions on the proposed budget. There were none. Next, Mayor Johnson summarized the meeting by stating that the General Fund Budget is approximately \$3.3 million dollars which includes a 2.9% millage increase that would bring in approximately \$24,000, no increase in fees and a 1.5% pay increase. The General Fund would be balanced by a carryover of Fund balance in the amount of approximately \$103,000. The Utility Fund is approximately \$2 million with a \$191 surplus with no increase in water and sewer rates, but includes an increase in the tap and impact fees.

VI. Adjournment:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Witherspoon and was seconded by Mayor Protem Gordon to adjourn. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daun Davis
Administrative Services Coordinator/Clerk