

City of Baxter
Special Called Meeting Minutes
City Hall, 200 Main St.
June 16, 2016
7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jeff Wilhite called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were Alderman Greg Phillips, Mayor Jeff Wilhite, Alderman Jeff Herald, and Alderman Harmon Garris.

3. Business

Mayor Wilhite reported that Baxter's tax rate for fiscal year 2016-2017 will be passed separately from the budget. The Putnam County Property Assessor's office will provide the tax assessment rate in July. Baxter will then be able to set it's own tax rate. City property taxes will not be raised this year.

The Mayor mentioned that the General and Special Revenue Fund has an estimated deficit of \$175,199. He mentioned that the city needs to manage the budget more conservatively this fiscal year because it is difficult to anticipate revenue projections. Cuts are needed at this time to bring down the deficit. If revenue increases, budget amendments can be made to allow for necessary spending. To lower the deficit, raises were eliminated for all General Fund employees and cuts were made to the following:

- City Hall: Building Maintenance - renovation of men's restroom
- Street & Sanitation: Gas/Oil, Signs, Vehicle Expenses, Phone/Fax/Internet, Landfill Fees, & Equipment
- Fire: No full-time Saturday employee
- Police: Fuel budget was cut \$2,000.00

Police Chief Danny Holmes stated that he did not request any budget increases or raises for Police Department employees. He expressed concern when it was suggested that a couple of officers have their schedules reduced to thirty hours per week. Chief Holmes mentioned that his department is answering increased calls for assistance and he wants to

ensure that the city has adequate coverage. He also disagreed with the suggestion of removing from the budget the hiring of a sixth officer which had been approved in the previous budget year.

Alderman Herald made a motion to approve 1st reading of Ordinance 2016-6, "an ordinance adopting the General & Special Revenue fund for FY 16-17," with the previously discussed cuts bringing the deficit to \$65,641. The motion was seconded by Alderman Garris.

Vote: Phillips – yes, Herald – yes, Garris – yes. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 2016-7, "an ordinance adopting a budget for the Water & Sewer Fund for FY 16-17," which does not include raises, was made by Alderman Herald. The motion was seconded by Alderman Phillips.

Vote: Phillips – yes, Herald – yes, Garris – yes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Alderman Garris made a motion to approve 1st reading of Ordinance 2016-5, "an ordinance amending the annual operating budget for the Water & Sewer Fund for FY 15-16." The motion was seconded by Alderman Herald.

Vote: Phillips – yes, Herald – yes, Garris – yes. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to set the TCRS employer contribution rate at 3.4% was made by Alderman Herald. It was seconded by Alderman Phillips.

Vote: Phillips – yes, Herald – yes, Garris – yes. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Water Department's purchase order request for HD Supply was made by Alderman Garris. Alderman Phillips seconded the motion.

Vote: Phillips – yes, Herald – yes, Garris – yes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Alderman Herald suggested that if the city switches from Twin Lakes to Charter Communications for Internet service, Internet speeds will be greatly increased.

With no other business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorie Buford".

Lorie Buford

Interim City Recorder

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Wilhite".

Jeff Wilhite

Mayor