

**TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS
FIRST BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015
5:30 P.M.**

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Rhett Bullard, Vice Mayor Walter McKenzie, Councilpersons Helen Miller, Tonja Brown, Willie Jefferson, Interim Town Manager Shirley Heath, Finance Director/Town Clerk Pam Tomlinson and concerned citizens

Mayor announce the proposed millage rate:

Rhett Bullard announced the proposed millage rate of 6.0 mills shown in the TRIM notice. The Town Manager has proposed a millage rate of 4.4081 in the tentative budget which is the rolled back rate for 2015.

Comments on the budget by the Town Manager:

Shirley Heath announced an increase in liability insurance. Three budget summaries were submitted to include no rate decrease in utilities, a \$5.00 sewer decrease and a \$2.85 sewer decrease. From a management point of view, she recommend the Town stick with the original proposed budget with no decrease in utility rates. We should continue to put money into our capital improvement funds as much as possible each year. You can always revisit the rate issue at a later date. It is good to give back to the people, we still have to maintain our utilities that provide a better quality of life for our citizens. She recommend the Town share in the cost with Jasper and Jennings of \$1200 to purchase a sand bag machine for storm emergencies. Loans are included in the budget. In the future the Town will need to address the Veterans Park, Community Center repairs, Carver School, sidewalks, police storage, fire department equipment and the possibility of Curtis Johnson going full-time.

Public Input:

Joe Griffin presented a budget to the Council. No questions asked of Joe Griffin on his proposed budget.

Comments and budget amendments by the Town Council:

Helen Miller had a question about opting out of the Town's health insurance and wanted to know why Pam Tomlinson was being favored. Shirley Heath informed Helen Miller she did not show favoritism to any employee. Pam Tomlinson explained that in order to get group rate there must be at least 70% participation from employees. Helen Miller would like to have 2-3 insurance proposals presented to the Council before they make a decision based on the information given.

Walter McKenzie agrees with the 3% salary increase for all employees. He would like to look for places to cut expenses, but make sure there is money for plants to run properly.

Willie Jefferson stated that although he does not agree with Joe Griffin most of the time, he would like to see some trimming of the funds.

Motion made by Willie Jefferson and seconded by Helen Miller for staff to get information on insurance rates. Rhett Bullard asked to amend the motion to possibly take away the 3% salary increase to all employees. Willie Jefferson did not think everyone should have raises taken away because of a few employees opting out of health insurance. Motion was withdrawn.

Motion made by Willie Jefferson and seconded by Helen Miller for staff to get insurance information.
5/0

Recessed at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pam Tomlinson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pam Tomlinson, Finance Director/Town Clerk