

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hernando met for the Recessed Meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, August 26, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. with Mayor Chip Johnson presiding. Alderpersons present were: Alderman W.I. "Doc" Harris, Alderwoman Natalie Lynch, Alderman Andrew Miller, Alderman Bruce Robinson, Alderman Chad Wicker, Alderwoman Beth Ross, and Alderman Ben Piper. Also present for the meeting were: City Clerk Pam Pyle, Parks Director DeWayne Williams, Gia Matheny

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance

INVOCATION

Alderman Piper gave the invocation.

AGENDA

	Agenda City of Hernando Mayor and Board of Alderman Recessed Meeting	
August 26, 2021		6:00pm
1)	Call the meeting to order	
2)	Pledge of Allegiance	
3)	Invocation	
4)	Approve Agenda	
5)	Continuation of FY22 Budget Workshop (Department Head Presentations)	
6)	Adjourn	

Motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker and seconded by Alderman Robinson to approve the agenda as presented. A vote was taken with the following results:

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross and Alderman Piper.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 26th day of August, 2021.

CONTINUATION OF FY22 BUDGET WORKSHOP-DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mayor Jonson presented the Cemetery Budget.

Tonight, we will be going over 2 funds, one of them being the Cemetery Fund, which is a stand-alone fund with its own bank account. Based on the revenues we are seeing come in, and the new available plots from new work done there, it looks like we will easily bring in \$27,000.00. There is \$72,000.00 in surplus to bring forward. I am not considering transferring any money from the general fund. I put \$30,000.00 in Capital Outlay. There are some very old paths in the cemetery that are asphalt, and have disappeared under the grass after many years. I spoke to Joe Frank and he said if we put \$30,000.00 in there, he will see how far we can go putting concrete paths in there, maybe 2 or 3 done. We borrowed \$194,000.00 (\$100,000.00 for cemetery and \$94,000.00 for Parks) last year and did a lot of dirt work. We do have a note, but did not spend it all. There is a little more dirt work to do, but will not take all of the money. We can keep using that to continue to make improvements. We will add the repainting of the wrought iron fencing that needs to be looked at. Quincy, who cuts and maintains the cemetery has asked for a pay increase. We can bid it out and see what we get. He also maintains other cemeteries and said that we may look at increasing the purchase price of plots, because we are pretty low, that we can look at later.

Mayor Johnson presented the revenue for the Parks Budget. Revenues for parks come from 2% millage collected from ad-valorem taxes. Other revenues are fees from programs and rentals. COVID has decreased some revenues, but that also is off-set with decreased expenses. Looking at the revenue as presented, there will need to be a transfer from general fund of \$607,679.60 to make it balance.

DeWayne Williams presented the Parks Budget:

Salaries were discussed. Parks lowest pay is \$10.00 per hour. These salaries need to be \$13.00 at the lowest. We are at 89% on salaries for FY21 and will use it all by 9/30/2021. We will have to look at revenues to see what can be done to get any increases. Maybe increases could be split over 2 budget years. Mayor Johnson will look at comparisons on salaries from us and other comparable cities and bring that information back, and make recommendations to the board. Retaining people is a cost savings and it is difficult to compare the cities in DeSoto County.

If the open position, and new position are filled Parks would be fully staffed, and be ideal. The restrooms are checked once a day with the staff we have now. We do not have time to check more than that. Vandalism in the restrooms is terrible, especially in Lees Summit. Sheet rock is torn off the walls, stalls torn down, feces on the walls. A thicker plywood was put in Conger Park restrooms, so hopefully that will help. Cameras could be a help. There are different types of cameras that we could look at. Key pad locks on the doors could be an option. The police have been asked to patrol more often, which they do. We need to catch the vandals and prosecute. They make an extra effort to tear stuff up. Additional lighting might keep some of the vandalism down. We do not lock the restrooms because of early and late walkers, maybe we could look at some type of smart locks. They will still find a way to break them, so be mindful that things are going to be broken.

The new positions will be for maintenance. Field and turf maintenance takes time, and right now we are running through there fast. We cannot do all of the processes to make the optimum maintenance. Maybe we could look at outsourcing janitorial services in the restrooms. The parks employees would not have to be taking their time to clean them, and can maintain the fields better. The janitorial service would be held accountable for keeping them clean. It may cost less than a salary, and outsourcing could have them cleaned more often. Athletic turf maintenance and restrooms are the biggest issue. We are having an issue hiring people, and I am losing my 2nd most skilled employee for a \$16.00 per hour job. We do not have the revenue to compete with that in the budget.

Supplies expenses are down, so they are pretty much flat. The Park Maintenance Contract is the spraying and outsourcing most of the mowing. This would be all of the mowing for the parks. It will free us up to do field and turf mowing and maintenance at a higher level. Playground maintenance and inspections that are required. Trail maintenance, cut trees down, weeding, mulching all the things that we have to do. We will sometimes have to get on a mower depending on the need. The 2020 feasibility study that was done says we should have 12 employees in our department. It did not include outsourcing the mowing, but it talked about doing that. We have to make tough decisions, so if it comes down to adding 2 new positions or a park maintenance contract? To keep 5 maintenance people, and do a park maintenance contract would be the choice and don't add the 2 people. Park maintenance contract would still be the best option. The total for 2 new people is almost the same amount for a park maintenance contract. But we do not have an actual quote yet. It takes 49-man hours to mow at the parks. We do all of the spraying in the parks with 2 certified sprayers, but we outsource the field's spraying.

In capital improvements, we need 2 blowers, 2 weed eaters, and 2 John Deere mowers. Even though we may contract out mowing, we will still need to be able to mow due to weather and scheduling. We could do with 1 John Deere mower and 2 weed eaters. We could utilize the Public Works shop to do maintenance on this equipment. Lee will be consulted to get a plan to utilize the 2-bay shop for equipment and vehicle maintenance city wide. We need a fleet schedule city wide. Parks keeps a maintenance schedule on mowers. We are looking to purchase a truck because ours are old, at least 16 years old. We can use the old trucks for the 2 sports directors to haul stuff in instead of using their personal vehicles.

We rent out the Gale center and need more tables and chairs to utilize all of the building and seat bigger groups. Office space renovation was discussed, but will be looked at in the future. The Gale Center is a great space and used for multiple functions all of the time. Rental fees were discussed. The rental fee is \$200.00 for 4 hours. Total expenditures budgeted will be up \$275,000.00. When we come back for approval it will be either contract out maintenance or hire 2 employees, and the additional mowers. Also, get quotes for janitorial for the restrooms, and look at the supplies that will incur. Choose the best combination to get the best result.

RECESS

There being no further business at this time a motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker, seconded by Alderman Robinson to recess until August 31, 2021 at 6pm.
Motion passed with a unanimous vote of "Aye".

ORDERED AND DONE this the 26th day of August, 2021.

MAYOR CHIP JOHNSON

ATTEST:

PAM PYLE, CITY CLERK