

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hernando met in Recess session at City Hall on Thursday, August 17, 2023, 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 Robinson, Alderman Chad Wicker, and Alderwoman Ross. Also present for the meeting were: City Clerk Pam Pyle, Chief of Police Shane Ellis, Assistant Chief of Police Charles Lanphere, Dispatch Director Dana Lowrey, Fire Chief Marshel Berry, Court Clerk Cassi Perry, Parks Director Jared Barkley, Public Works Director Lee Germany, HR Director Julie Gates, Animal Control Director Jessica Green, and Nester Duran.

Absent: Alderman Ben Piper

20230817-2

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance

20230817-3

INVOCATION

Alderman Miller gave the invocation.

20230817-4

AGENDA

Agenda
City of Hernando
Mayor and Board of Alderman
Recessed Meeting

August 17, 2023

6:00pm

- 1) Call the meeting to order.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approve Agenda
- 5) Discuss FY24 Budget.
- 6) Adjourn

Motion was duly made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderwoman Ross to approve the Agenda as presented.

A vote was taken with the following results:

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

Those voting "Nay": None

Absent: Alderman Harris and Alderman Piper

ORDERED AND DONE this the 17th day of August, 20223

Alderman Doc Harris joined by teleconference.

20230817-5**DISCUSS FY24 BUDGET**

Alderman Miller stated he is looking for a \$1M contingency. He wants a 4% employee salary increase across the board. PERS is a benefit that potential employees do not consider. The difference between a 5% and 4% raise is \$108,078.00 in the General Fund and \$13,564.00 in the Utility Fund. The 1% savings could go into contingency. Last year the Fire Department received an excessive raise. Public Works and Parks did not get a bump like that.

Alderman Wicker agrees with a 4% salary increase across the board. He asked if the \$30,000.00 Election budget was for a future Special Election.

Alderman Ross stated the city must be competitive. Some employees went from \$8, \$10, and \$12 last budget. We must invest in certain areas to recruit employees. Department heads can come back in mid budget season and ask for more staff dollars.

Lee Germany stated DCRUA is going to go up significantly. Rainwater in the drainage system will be looked into to see if we can get that stopped. Garbage rates will go up from \$17.50 to \$22.00 and only have \$200K in contingency. Hope to get DCRUA under control so we do not have to raise rates on the citizens.

Alderman Harris agrees with the 4% salary increase with unknown expenses to absorb such as DCRUA. 2017 was the last garbage rate increase.

Mayor Johnson has heard the 4% salary increase from the Board. He wants a 5% increase since we went backwards last year which mounts up over time.

Alderman Wicker stated if we can find \$121,000.00, we can look at it. We will get direction from PERS and not push it forward, then come back to look at adding to salaries. Possibly come back in 90 days and ask for another 1%.

Lee Germany stated he cannot operate with a \$200,000.00 contingency fearing a water plant goes down for instance. Alderman Miller agreed that they all have that fear. Lee Germany stated he has no solution. Alderman Miller suggested they look a Public Works throughout the year and see how we are.

Mayor Johnson stated a \$327,000.00 bond note drops off this year, and a CAP loan is to drop off with money for the sale of land.

No action taken.

20230817-6**ADJOURN**

There being no further business at this time a motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker, seconded by Alderman Robinson to adjourn.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of "Aye".

Absent: Alderman Ben Piper

RESOLVED AND DONE, This 17th day of August, 2023

MAYOR CHIP JOHNSON

ATTEST:

PAM PYLE, CITY CLERK