

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hernando met in recessed session at City Hall on Tuesday, September 10, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. with Mayor Tom Ferguson presiding. Aldermen present were: Alderman Harris, Alderman Bryant, Alderman Miller, Alderman Higdon, Alderman McLendon, Alderwoman Brooks and Alderman Hobbs. Also present for the meeting were: City Clerk Katie Harbin, City Attorney Kenny Stockton, Fire Chief Hubert Jones, Police Chief Scott Worsham, Assistant Police Chief Shane Ellis, Captain Charles Lanphere, Public Works Director Bobby Burton, Planning Director Keith Briley, Court Clerk Cassaundra Perry, Human Resource Manager Julie Harris, Director of Economic and Community Development Gia Matheny, Animal Control/Shelter Director Susan Huff, Parks and Recreation Director Dewayne Williams, Judge Nowak, Kelly Dion, Janet Clements, Carolyn Richards, Chris Fuller, Traci Thompson, Bob Cook, and Michelle McFarland.

DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND TAX LEVIES FYE 2019

Mayor Ferguson opened the discussion stating that we have gotten the general fund budget down to being \$89,327.05 over. We still need contingency.

Alderman Miller asked if that was with contingency.

Mayor Ferguson answered no, we should have at least 3 months of operation funds in contingency.

Alderman Miller stated that he's heard 6 months, we need to decide how much to put in contingency. Look at what happened with the ambulance.

Mayor Ferguson asked Fire/EMS Chief if they will pay loss of income.

Fire/EMS Chief Hubert Jones stated that they should pay, but he has not heard back from them yet.

Alderman Miller stated that he proposed to put \$300,000 to \$600,000 in contingency.

Mayor Ferguson stated \$600,000 will take us a long way, but \$300,000 is a start.

Alderwoman Brooks stated she was good with that.

Alderman Hobbs stated that he was good with that.

Alderman Miller asked how much was in street overlay.

Mayor Ferguson answered \$600,000 was in this current year, but \$300,000 went to the previous year's budget.

Alderman Miller stated that he thinks we should keep it at \$600,000, It will be better than last years budget, looking at revenues and expenses.

Alderman Higdon stated that he doesn't agree with that. That is always the first to get hit, to take from. The \$1.2 million would get us a good start.

Alderman Miller stated find \$400,000 then.

Alderman Harris stated that he is with Alderman Higdon, we can't keep pushing streets down the list.

Alderman Miller stated that as he looks through the budget, I'm not satisfied by what I see. The \$89K might actually be more, looks like there is a \$60K difference in water salaries.

City Clerk Katie Harbin stated that the difference Alderman Miller was seeing in water salaries was an open position that was originally budgeted for and then cut out.

HR Manager Julie Harris stated that also, there was a 3% increase budgeted that was reduced to 2%.

Public Works Director Bobby Burton stated that we took over extra water services, we need an extra position. I'd also like to be able to look at salaries in 180 days for Public Works. We should evaluate the pay, for experience.

Alderman McLendon stated that you're putting minimal on overtime.

Public Works Director Bobby Burton answered yes, but it will continue to go up.

Alderman Hobbs stated to cut \$260,000 out of overlays, to bring it down to \$750,000. Mr. Hobbs stated that we have things happening in Hernando, a dealership, gas station, an event place in Nesbit, etc.

Alderman Harris stated that we have a lot of new vehicles in the new budget.

Alderman Miller stated that we took some out. Mr. Miller asked the department heads that have new vehicles to present their capital requests.

Alderman Hobbs stated that a few years ago, there was duct tape holding mirrors on some PD vehicles, they can't operate like that. They need to be switched every so often. If you keep rotating, the expense will go down.

Alderman Miller stated I just want to know the type, like the truck.

Police Chief Scott Worsham stated that the truck was cheaper than the explorers we got.

Alderman Miller stated we can get a new one, but not as expensive.

Police Chief Scott Worsham stated that we paid \$4,000 more for the truck than we did for a charger. The truck has an upgraded engine and is a 4x4. It has more than paid for itself. When we sell it, we will get back what we'd pay on stated contract. The explorers are not good vehicles, we have had many problems out of them. I bought 2 cars last year. The City needed an ambulance, and my lease wouldn't fall off until this year, so I waited.

Alderman Harris asked if the \$440,000 is for 12 vehicles.

Police Chief Worsham answered yes, and an animal control truck. Mr. Worsham stated that he is saving money even with purchasing vehicles. Good planning will get us to where we need to be.

Alderman Harris stated that he was just looking for an honest answer.

Mayor Ferguson asked if these will be fully equipped.

Police Chief Worsham answered yes, and I built in everything they will need in their car to do reports.

Mayor Ferguson asked what kind of car will you get.

Alderman Harris asked if he will have to use the purchasing plan.

Police Chief Worsham answered no sir, it is on state contract. Mr. Worsham stated that if we would have had to pay what was covered in the maintenance contract, we would have been out \$37,000 more for the repairs to the explorers.

Mayor Ferguson asked if Mr. Worsham will wait until January.

Police Chief Worsham answered yes.

Alderman Harris asked if Mr. Worsham was able to get communications on it.

Police Chief Worsham answered yes, that's what I was talking about, the mobile data. Mr. Worsham stated that he would really like to get the carpet replaced in Dispatch.

Alderman Miller stated that the money needs to be put back in the budget for that.

Police Chief Worsham stated it would be \$5,000. We will try to come in lower.

Alderwoman Brooks asked if the \$275,000 for the animal shelter was still in the bond fund.

City Clerk Katie Harbin answered yes, it is.

Alderman Miller stated that we still need to figure out about the animal shelter.

Alderwoman Brooks stated that we've talked about having someone talk to us about it.

Mayor Ferguson stated that he is waiting on a price from Bank Plus for a lot. Mr. Ferguson stated that we also have to build a pedestrian bridge.

Alderman Hobbs stated that it is 3 acres behind Cross Roads.

Alderman McLendon stated that we need to make a budget committee.

Alderman Miller passed out a sheet from the MS State Auditors office, about the audit and accounting guide and the budget calendar. Mr. Miller asked this to be put on the next agenda.

Alderman McLendon asked if the proposed stipends would catch everyone up.

Fire/EMS Chief Hubert Jones answered that this is just for special certifications.

HR Manager Julie Harris stated that those have nothing to do with the longevity.

Alderman Miller stated that we do not have a longevity policy.

Alderman McLendon stated he want the personnel committee to look at stipends and longevity.

Alderman Hobbs stated that on the comprehensive plan, how much is it.

Planning Director Keith Briley answered it will be about \$150,000 for a plan. That will include meetings, plans, copies, surveys, etc. We can spread it over 2 or 3 years.

Alderman Hobbs asked if we can lower it to 3 years instead of the budgeted 2.

Mayor Ferguson stated that he thinks in 3 years the work will be done and it will too late.

Planning Director Keith Briley stated that you can, but the project will be done in 2 years.

Mayor Ferguson stated that he thinks we should keep it at 2 years, like it is in the budget now. Mayor Ferguson asked Bobby Burton if he would want to do City Hall a favor.

Alderman Miller referred to Kenny Stockton to see about asking a question.

City Attorney Kenny Stockton stated that he doesn't know what the question is, but if they are questioning it, they probably shouldn't ask it.

Alderman McLendon stated that he wants to put the extra \$5,000 in the budget for the Chamber, they are going to do Christmas Lights on the square.

Alderman Miller stated that is not exactly what they said.

Edward, Chamber of Commerce, stated that it will cost \$5,000 to apply for a 501C3, but if we do receive the 501C3, we will be raising money to go toward the Christmas decorations.

Alderman McLendon stated yes, but they can get more grants with the 501C3 designation.

Mayor Ferguson asked if there are any comments from the Public.

Bob Cooke stated that he wondered about the Police Department's overtime budget, a lot of the OT is wasted on those 5K's.

Alderman Harris stated that we are trying to control those amounts.

Bob Cooke stated it seems like a lot of people come and ask for 5K's.

RECESS

There being no further business at this time a motion was duly made by Alderman Bryant, seconded by Alderman Higdon to recess until Thursday September 13th at 6pm.
Motion passed with a unanimous vote of "Aye".

MAYOR TOM FERGUSON

ATTEST:

KATIE HARBIN, CITY CLERK