MINUTES

The City of Blountstown, County of Calhoun, State of Florida, met in Special Session Monday, August 21, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. at the City Council Meeting Room. The following members of the City Council present were: Mayor Tony Shoemake, Councilman Clifford Jackson, Councilman James Griffin, and Councilwoman Sheila Blackburn.
Absent was Councilwoman Janie Boyd.

Also present were: City Manager Traci Hall, Police Chief Mark Mallory, Public Works Director Jeremy Norris, and Fire Chief Ben Hall.

Also present were: April Bailey, Jim Castle, Hank Nichols, Sol Blount, and Jerrod Waldron.

Mayor Shoemake called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:00 P.M. Councilwoman Blackburn led the Invocation. Councilman Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hall discussed Capital Outlay items for each department.

For Street Department, New Dump Truck$35k from last year and Street Paving carried over from last year.

For the Sewer Department, Mrs. Hall stated there will be an add on item to install Scada at Lift Station #5 on Orange Street - $13,500.

For the Police Department, Patrol Car budgeted $15k last year and $15k this year for total of $30k. Patrol Car budgeted $15k this year but that was incorrect, should have budgeted $30k for purchase of 2nd car. Will make correction.

Mrs. Hall asked Council if there was anything they would like to add to Capital Outlay. After discussion Council added $200k to Capital Outlay for paving.

Mrs. Hall advised Council when departments submit requests some things are absolutely necessary, some things may be where the City could do half this year and half next year. The department supervisors give a list of items they will need in the very near future if not currently. All department supervisors as well as Public Works Director, Jeremy Norris are present if any of the Council have questions for them.

Mayor Shoemake asked if the Electric department planned on selling 2 bucket trucks. Mr. Norris stated the Electric Department is going to sell 2 older bucket trucks to put towards a new bucket truck.

Councilman Griffin stated his concerns about the City purchasing new trucks and tractors. Councilman Griffin would like to see the City keep the current trucks and tractors.

Councilman Griffin asked why the Fire Department needs to be upgraded to digital. Fire Chief Hall stated it is mandatory for all Fire Departments to be digital by January 1st 2019. Councilman Griffin stated he thought it would be better to look at upgrading the Fire Department next year.

Councilman Griffin stated his concerns about the number of employees on the Street department. Councilman Griffin feels the City should add a position to the Street Department to help with the work flow of the City.

Mayor Shoemake asked what concerns the Electric Department have about the current bucket trucks the City has. Mr. Norris stated the vehicle itself is old, it is a 1995, and has older

cables on it that are due to be replaced. The newer model bucket trucks have hydraulics instead of cables.

Councilwoman Blackburn expressed her concerns about the down time the City is experiencing with the trucks and tractors the City currently has.

Mayor Shoemake expressed his concerns about the Fire Department waiting until next year for digital upgrade.

Next, the Council discussed employee salaries.

Mr. Norris expressed his appreciation for the guys in his departments.

Councilman Griffin stated there were 2 employees in the City that would not get raises. Mayor Shoemake stated those employees knew they would not be getting a raise.

Mrs. Hall discussed two employees in the Electric Department. The Council decided, as of October 1st the two individuals will be raised up to $16 an hour, and when they finish lineman school they will increased to $18.50 an hour and their positions will change from groundsmen to linemen.

Councilman Jackson asked if pay raises were still based on evaluations, staff assured him they were.

Council Members discussed beginning salaries for the Street Department.

Mrs. Hall asked, if Council would like to keep the 2 part time grass mower positions, in case Vocational Rehab has applicants for the City. After discussion it was decided to keep the 2 part time positions. Mr. Norris asked, if Vocational Rehab does not have any applicants could he hire for those positions. After discussion it was decided, if Vocational Rehab does not have any applicants Mr. Norris could then hire for those positions.

Next, the Gas Department salaries were discussed. It was decided to make Jerrod Waldron Supervisor of the Gas Department as of October 1st and give him a $2.00 per hour raise. It was decided to bring JK Musgrove up to $13.02 per hour.

Next, the Police Department salaries were discussed. It was decided the Police Chief will decide his employee raises. He will give Mrs. Hall a figure to include for his department, and he will bring all officer's salary up to $31,000(Same as beginning DOC Officer) a year.

Next, the Fire Department salaries were discussed. It was decided to bring the Volunteer Fire Fighters up to $35 a day, $40 a night and $125 on the weekend.

Wastewater, remaining Electric Department employees, and Administrative Department raises were discussed as well.

Council discussed all raises are pending employee evaluations.

Council discussed giving themselves a raise, no decision was made at that time.

The Council will meet in a Budget Workshop on Monday, August 28, 2017 at 5:00 P.M.

There being no further business Councilman Jackson made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Shoemake adjourned the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

BY: Tony Shoemake
Tony Shoemake, Mayor

ATTEST: Traci S. Hall
Traci S. Hall, City Manager