

MINUTES

The City of Blountstown, County of Calhoun, State of Florida, met in a Budget Workshop Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. at the City Council Meeting Room. The following members of the City Council present were: Mayor Tony Shoemake, Councilman Bill Gaskin, Councilman Clifford Jackson, and Councilwoman Sheila Blackburn.

Also present were: City Manager Traci S. Hall, Police Chief Mark Mallory, Public Works Director Phillip Griffin, Fire Chief Ben Hall, and Council Secretary Joni Lambeth.

Absent was: Councilwoman Mert Stephens

Mayor Shoemake called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:01 P.M. Councilman Jackson led the Invocation. Mayor Shoemake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hall reviewed the Commercial Garbage Rate Comparison budget between the cities and comparing between the 10% increase (\$17,079/YR) and the 5% increase (\$8,539.50/YR). After discussion the Council decided to increase the commercial garbage rate by 10%.

Next Mrs. Hall began with Budget Draft #2 by reviewing Payroll, the increase salary of the 4 salaried managers and health insurance premium by the City for \$49,188. The Administration Department increased Capital Outlay, contractual services, and contributions (added back an organization \$1000) for \$36,000. The Police Department increased Capital Outlay (pole barn) for \$8,000. The Fire department decreased the Capital Outlay line item by \$2,500 by halving the cost of nozzles. The Park Department decreased Capital Outlay by \$77,000 by removing items. The total increase of \$13,688 in expenses. An increase in revenue (electric 7% and gas \$.10 per Therm) of \$282,496. A decrease in reserves used to balance budget in the amount of \$268,808.

Next Mrs. Hall discussed the pay increase comparison for full and part-time employees for \$.50 per hour (\$1,040 a year) or \$1 per year (2,080 a year). After discussion the Council decided on a \$1 per hour increase (\$2080/year) - \$147,679.

Mrs. Hall asked the Council if they wanted to give themselves a raise? After discussion, the Council decided to increase Council salary by \$500 per month.

Councilwoman Blackburn asked Chief Mallory if we could budget 2 vehicles for the Police Department instead of the 3 vehicles as requested. Chief Mallory stated they could make that work. After discussion the Council decided to budget for 2 vehicles and add the Data Collection system for the Police Department.

The Council will meet in a Tentative Budget Hearing on Monday, September 18, 2022, at 5:01 P.M.

There being no further business Councilman Jackson made the motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Blackburn seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mayor Shoemake adjourned the meeting at 6:27 P.M.

BY: 
Tony Shoemake, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Traci S. Hall, City Manager