



City of Jonesboro

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Monday, January 12, 2009

3:00 PM

Huntington Building

Special Called Meeting

1. Call To Order

Mayor Perrin was also in attendance.

Present 4 - Darrel Dover; John Street; Ann Williams and Jim Hargis

2. New Business

ORD-09:003

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CONTINUED AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING UNDER THE 2008 BUDGET EXCLUDING FIXED ASSETS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this Ordinance be Recommended to Council. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Darrel Dover; John Street and Jim Hargis

COM-09:001

Budget presentation by Finance Director Jim Barksdale

Attachments: [2009 Budget Information](#)

Mr. Barksdale thanked his staff for their work putting together the 2009 budget.

He explained the 2009 revenues and expenditure amounts were projected from three years of trends, as well as specific amounts they anticipate for 2009. He further explained they tried to be conservative with the amounts. He discussed the 2009 budget summary. He stated \$9.8 million in reserves will be left after the 2009 budget. He then discussed the 2009 projected revenues, noting the line that states "Sales Taxes" should actually say "All Taxes" because it includes other taxes such as the property and water taxes. He stated they are projecting \$53.446 million in revenues, but they are being conservative due to the current recession. He noted the City took in \$25.2 million in sales tax for 2008. He added they are projecting the City take in \$26 million in sales tax for 2009. He then discussed the different taxes and how much money they have accrued in revenue in the past few years. Mr. Barksdale discussed the expenditures for 2009. He noted the Personnel increase includes a 3% cost of living adjustment, as well as three new positions. Further discussion was held concerning the sales tax. Mr. Barksdale stated the 1-cent sales tax for the City increased by \$1 million from last year.

Councilman Hargis questioned whether the 2008 budget estimates included everything spent in 2008, including items that were added to the 2008 budget during the year. Councilman Dover explained it may be the end of the month before the complete figures from 2008 are available since 2008 just ended.

Mr. Barksdale further discussed the 2009 budgeted expenditures. Councilman Dover questioned whether the agencies, such as Advertising & Promotion Commission, contacted the City and requested a certain amount or if the amount reflected in the 2009 budget is just an estimate. Mr. Barksdale stated the agencies asked for that amount of money, but they also had to provide a list of what the money would be used for before they were included in the budget. He then discussed the departments within the General Operating Fund. He noted a change in group insurance. Mr. Barksdale explained in previous years the money for expenses such as group insurance and pension were under general administration, but this year the costs are broken up between the different departments. He further explained breaking up the costs will reflect a more accurate figure as to what it costs to operate each department.

Further discussion was held concerning the boards and commissions request for funding in 2009.

Mayor Perrin noted he plans to pay off the leases in 2009, which will cost \$2.8 million. He explained paying off the leases will save the City \$160,000 in interest. He further explained he chose to pay off the leases due to the loss in interest income because of the low interest rates offered from banks. He stated in the last four the City's reserves have been spent down to \$18 million because the City has had to use the money to pay for improvements such as drainage and fire stations. He explained the high priority improvements for 2009 amount to \$2.3 million, but the City may not be able to do all of the projects during 2009. He added three committees will be set up to be used during the year to look at revenue, capital improvements and buildings and facilities. He stated there are some unused properties the City owns that could be sold to generate revenue. Mayor Perrin added there are some costs they aren't sure what the expense will be, such as the master street plan and future drainage improvements. He explained he hopes the sales tax revenue will increase more than projected, but he was not comfortable putting a larger figure in the budget. Councilman Hargis stated he would like more information regarding the details of the projects, such as how much feet of greenway or sidewalks are going to be made for each planned improvement. He added he would also like to know the priority of each of the projects. Mayor Perrin explained they plan to give the Council that information once the information is available. Chairwoman Williams noted in the past the City has held public forums for citizen input about prioritizing Capital Improvement projects. She questioned whether there are any forums planned for the future. Mayor Perrin answered yes, they plan on having some town hall meetings. Chairwoman Williams then questioned whether there were any plans to use grant money to make sidewalks on Caraway to make the bus stops more accessible. Mayor Perrin stated there are not any plans for those projects in 2009 other than North Caraway, unless projects are added to Capital Improvements. Councilman Street noted purchasing right of way for the Patrick Street improvements will take a while, so the complete project may take longer than a year.

This item was Read.

ORD-09:005

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A 2009 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [2009 Budget - FINAL](#)
 [2009 BUDGET - Letter Harold Perrin](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this Ordinance be Recommended to Council. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Darrel Dover; John Street and Jim Hargis

ORD-09:004

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A 3% COST OF LIVING INCREASE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO ARE NOT PART OF THE SALARY ADMINISTRATION PLAN

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this Ordinance be Recommended to Council. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Darrel Dover; John Street and Jim Hargis

3. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Darrel Dover; John Street and Jim Hargis