

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTON

SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING

JUNE 29, 2009

6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Crout. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given by Mayor Crout. All members of council were present except for Councilman Cole who was on vacation.

Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to approve the minutes from June 1, 2009. All voted in favor.

Councilman Harvell made a motion seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes from June 4, 2009. All voted in favor.

Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to approve the minutes from June 18, 2009. All voted in favor.

A representative of Pelzer Wesleyan Church was present to request the use of the amphitheater on July 5th. Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to allow the use of the amphitheater. The motion carried.

Public comments were given by Roger Welborn who questioned the Mayor about the Administrator's salary being a 20% raise compared to the 3% raise for others. He also asked if taxes would need to be raised. Phillip Clardy also raised the issue of the Administrator's raise, education, qualifications, and experience; purchasing a new car; acquiring Blackberry phones; and the status of Richard Willett's position. Mike Looper spoke about pedestrians using small flags when crossing the street in the crosswalk.

Councilman Middleton made a motion to approve second reading of the FY 09 – 10 Budget. Councilman Harvell seconded for purpose of discussion. Councilman Harvell made a motion to amend the budget to include a 3% across the board

raise for everybody paid by the Town including the Administrator. Councilman Looper made a motion to amend the budget to also include the Fire Department. Councilman Harvell and Councilman Looper voted for the motion, Councilman Middleton and Mayor Crout voted against the motion and the motion failed because of the tie vote.

Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Mayor Crout to approve a 10% raise for the Administrator with a 3% raise for everybody else. Councilman Middleton and Mayor Crout voted in favor with Councilman Harvell and Councilman Looper voting against resulting in another failed motion due to the tie.

Discussion concerning purchasing a lift (a budgeted item) followed. The lift will be a bucket type that is pulled to a location. Hospitality Tax funds of \$20,000 with another \$20,000 to come from the sanitation fund are budgeted for the lift.

Mayor Crout made a motion to amend the budget to show a 7% raise for the Administrator. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor Crout called for a vote on the budget with Councilman Middleton and Mayor Crout voting in favor and Councilman Harvell and Councilman Looper voting against. The motion failed.

Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Mayor Crout for a 15 minute recess. Councilman Middleton and Mayor Crout voted for the recess with Councilman Harvell and Councilman Looper voting against. The motion failed.

Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to amend the budget with a 3% across the board raise for everyone including the Administrator and Fire Department. All voted in favor.

Mayor Crout called for a vote on the budget with the 3% across the board raise for everyone and all voted in favor of passing the FY 09 – 10 Budget ordinance.

During the Good of the Order, Councilman Middleton discussed meetings with Councilman Harvell to work on a new purchasing policy. It will be presented to councilmen a few days before the July 13th meeting.

Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to adjourn. All voted in favor. Adjournment was at 6:45 pm.