

**SPECIAL MEETING
LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

JULY 2, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Council present:

Mayor James Bertram
Councilmember Paul Gomez
Councilmember Richard Banks
Councilmember Kenny Roland

Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Estrada
Councilmember Richard Wieland
Councilmember Lew White

Staff present:

Vance Rodgers, City Manager
Stephanie House, Controller
Michael Lummus, Police Chief
Bonnie Townsend, Court Administrator
Dan Gibson, City Planner

Jeff Hinson, Finance Director
Jerry Doyle, Fire Chief
John Roescher, Police Captain
Michael Catching, Building Official
Julie Bowermon, Admin. Assistant

Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council: None.

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor James Bertram called the budget workshop of the Lockhart City Council to order on this date at 7:03 p.m.

ITEM 2. CITIZENS/VISITORS COMMENTS.

Mayor Bertram requested citizens to address the Council. There were none.

ITEM 3-A. PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOP REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET.

Mayor Bertram requested that staff make the budget presentation.

Fire (Chief Doyle):

- Discussion regarding items that were removed from the budget requests.
- Discussion regarding the increase in call volume to the Fire Department.
- Discussion regarding how the Fire Department assists with EMS calls.
- Discussion regarding an increase in hours for the part-time Secretary from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week. City Manager's recommendation was to leave the Secretary's hours at 20 hours per week.
- Discussion regarding a request for the purchase of additional laptops.
- Information regarding requirements for a grant application and projected costs to build a new fire station that would be built if the grant were awarded.
- Additional staffing if the new fire station is constructed. Wages for new personnel would not be covered by the grant funds.
- Update regarding HazMat training requirements of which upgraded equipment would be required to be purchased.
- Request to purchase new fire apparatus to meet the Insurance Service Office requirements to have four fire apparatus'. The City currently has three.
- Discussion regarding the STEP pay plan and possible salary increases.

- Discussion regarding an increase in the contribution made by the City to the Firefighters Pension fund.
- Discussion regarding funds budgeted for continuing education.

Telecommunication (Chief Lummus):

- Discussion regarding the reasons that the Telecommunication Department budget increased by \$20,000.
- Discussion regarding the substantial increase in costs for leasing equipment and equipment replacement/maintenance.

Police (Chief Lummus):

- Discussion regarding a sixteen percent (16%) increase in over-time costs due to salary increases and officers having to attend court hearings.
- Discussion on fees for housing, transporting, and magistration of prisoners.
- Discussion regarding ammunition costs and supplies.
- Discussion regarding car allowances. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to leave the car allowances as requested.
- Details provided regarding the use of a dog in Police Department. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to continue to support the use of a dog in the Police Department due to the Chief's conversations with the current District Attorney and recent rulings by the Supreme Court.

Municipal Court (Bonnie Townsend):

- Recommends increasing salary of City Marshal. There was discussion regarding the City Marshal's job duties and comparison of the current Lockhart Police Officer starting salary.
- There was discussion regarding concerns of having a police presence during council meetings. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was that police protection was not necessary during council meetings.
- Mr. Rodgers commended Ms. Townsend and her staff in reference to their continuing education and their knowledge of the municipal court proceedings.

Planning (Dan Gibson):

- Brief discussion regarding the Planning Department budget, which has not changed much since last fiscal year (FY 2008-2009).

Inspections/Code Enforcement (Michael Catching):

- Discussion regarding the slight decrease in budget as compared to last fiscal year (FY 2008-2009).
- There was discussion regarding the lack of a Code Enforcement Officer.

The City Manager urged Council members to please send questions be e-mailed to him regarding the proposed budget and that answers would be provided to everyone including in the public meeting.

ITEM 3-B. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING TENTATIVE BUDGET AND TAX RATE ADOPTION CALENDAR.

There was discussion regarding upcoming meetings.

ITEM 4. ADJOURNMENT.

Councilmember Wieland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Roland seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 21st day of July 2009.

CITY OF LOCKHART

James Bertram, Mayor

ATTEST:

Connie Ortiz, TRMC, City Secretary