

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
August 13, 2024

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on August 13, 2024, with the following members present to wit:

Anderson M. Land, Jr.....	Mayor
Marcus Barber.....	Council Member
DeMarcus Holmes.....	Council Member/Absent
Ronald Sample.....	Council Member
Angel McCroskey.....	Council Member
Lequin Hilderbrand.....	Council Member
Greg Kelley.....	Interim City Manager
Liz Jarrell.....	City Secretary

The Special Called City Council Workshop was called to order by Mayor Land at 6:00pm. Street Department Superintendent Wade Peek gave the opening prayer. All council members were present to wit except Council Member DeMarcus Holmes.

Mayor Land went on to public comments. We had one request. Mr. William Grant spoke concerning the budget.

Interim City Manager Greg Kelley started going over the proposed budget with the General Fund. Mr. Kelley stated all departments had to make a 5% cut to make this budget. Mr. Kelley stated that Jasper County no longer pays \$17,500.00 to the animal shelter. This was for the Sheriff's office to be able to bring dogs to the shelter for quarantine only.

Finance Director Robbie Peek mentioned sales tax has gone down.

Interim City Manager Greg Kelley stated the forensic audit is not included in this budget because Mr. Kelley is not sure how much the audit will be.

Interim City Manager Greg Kelley stated the library needs a new roof which bids were received for it.

Interim City Manager Greg Kelley stated the sanitation department needs a haul truck and a pickup truck. Finance Director Robbie Peek indicated the landfill fees have increased in the budget because of hauling refuse to a different location than before. The landfill we used before in Leggett no longer has equipment to unload our truck, and they are not always open.

Finance Director Robbie Peek spoke about a proposed property tax increase. The tax office stated if we stay low with our rate, it will take at least five years to recover. Finance Director Robbie Peek proposed a property tax rate of 0.2691.

Interim City Manager Greg Kelley began review of Light and Power Fund.

Finance Director Robbie Peek mentioned having a meeting with SEnergy on August 28 at 6:00pm for public comments to discuss the proposed electric rates. SEnergy proposed a 3-year incremental rate adjustment for the electric rates.

Finance Director Robbie Peek mentioned that the Right of Way Department/Electrical Department needs a tractor and needs to do some reconductoring to some lines. Electric Department Superintendent Lee Wellman stated one of the main feeders located on Highway 190 is loaded down and needs reconductoring.

Interim City Manager Greg Kelley stated we need to upgrade some water lines. Mr. Kelley mentioned eight lines need to be updated, and we will install fire protection on those lines as well.

Interim City Manager Greg Kelley said this proposed budget includes a 2.5% pay increase instead of the usual 3% increase for employees not including the police chief, judge, lawyer, and city manager.

The council was asked to review the working proposed budget and notify staff of any changes needed before final proposal completed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.


Anderson Land, Mayor

Attest:


Liz Jarrell, City Secretary