

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING-BUDGET WORKSHOP
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013. 6:00 P.M.

A Special Meeting - Budget Workshop was held by City Council on May 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson, Odessa Gregg and Emerson Hunt were present. Also present were Mr. Alan Ammons, Mrs. Patricia Brown and Ms. Pam Jones.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order. The media was notified although none were present.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to allow Willie Windom and Pee Dee Action Community use Grice's and Pop Dorsey Park for a Summer Feeding Program, June thru August, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Mayor Davis commented that the Budget for Fiscal year 2013-14 was balanced for the most part on everything in the general operating budget, as much as can be cut has been. Mayor Davis turned the floor over to Mr. Ammons and Mrs. Brown to go over the budget with council. Mr. Ammons stated there was no property tax increase, no increase in health and dental insurance, 2% cost of living increase across the board. It also includes doing property taxes from the County, who charge \$.50 per property notice mailed. Foxwatch block party money for each Council District will be eliminated. There will be a \$1.00 increase on sanitation roll-out carts, due to fuel surcharge, which is based on cost of diesel. This surcharge should generate approximate \$36,000. Mayor Davis, Mr. Ammons and Mrs. Brown have gone line by line, department by department making cuts and adjustments for next year's budget. Mayor Davis commented that we are in desperate need for new cameras in the police cars and fundraisers may be an option to help replace the old ones. Councilman Ralph Atkinson, Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson and Councilman Michael Baker all stated they would not be attending the MASC annual meeting this year and perhaps that money can be put towards the cameras. Mr. Ammons commented that regarding PDRTA, we have designated \$2,850, which is the amount they have received for the past several years. The City of Marion, City of Mullins and Marion County have been asked to come up with \$7,500 each, with Mayor McMillan to seek matching funding from the Hospital Foundation. As of this date, there has been no response from the Hospital Foundation. There was discussion among Council that there did not appear to be enough people from Marion using this service to justify giving more money to PDRTA. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson recommended leaving our

portion at \$2,850 until we hear the decision from the Hospital Foundation. Councilman Baker asked where we would come up with the additional \$4,700., to which Mr. Ammons responded that we would have to make some adjustments.

In regards to the Hospitality Budget, Council discussed the requests for funding from various groups and agreed to continue to allow them to use City property for events. Due to budget constraints, it was decided to fund the Marion County Independence Day Celebration for \$500, Reverend Hemingway's Youth Day for \$1,000, and Fred Gause's karate event for \$2,000. Mayor Davis requested and received a financial report from the Chamber of Commerce and HMRA; since the City helps fund these and should know where the money is being spent. Councilman Baker discussed adjusting the amount of funding for HMRA, as the intention was for HMRA to be self-supporting within 3 years (from 1993), and the City is still supporting them. Councilman Baker suggested that the 3 years begin now and let HMRA know that funding would drop by \$3,000 starting next year. Mr. Ammons commented that by FY 2017, the final funded amount would be \$10,000. This was met with approval by the Mayor and Council and the HMRA Budget will be placed on the June agenda. Mr. Ammons will contact Chuck with this information.

Mayor Davis will talk with Judge Speth regarding the part-time judge situation and possible solutions, and ask her to be here for the Executive Session at the June meeting and explain exactly what we can do. Council will then be able to make a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Atkinson made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped May 15, 2013