

May Minutes
Mayor and Council Work Session
Commerce City Hall Conference Room
May 1, 2006
6:00 P.M.

The regularly scheduled work session of the Mayor and Council was held on Monday, May 1, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commerce City Hall Conference Room, 27 Sycamore Street. Mayor Charles Hardy called the work session to order and Finance Director Steve McKown called the roll. Those in attendance were Mayor Charles Hardy, Mayor Pro Tem Dusty Slater, Councilmen Wayne Gholston, Donald Wilson, Mark Fitzpatrick and Bob Sosebee, City Manager Clarence Bryant and one member of the press.

Mayor Charles Hardy said he had nothing to bring before the council and he turned the work session over to City Manager Clarence Bryant.

City Manager Clarence Bryant said it should be a short meeting on Monday because there was not very much for council action. He then covered the agenda items.

1. Boys and Girls Club Contract

Mr. Bryant said there were no changes from the copy he passed out last month. The contract needed formal action to approve. He said there were no budgeted funds toward that facility because it would be turned over to the Boys and Girls Club effective July 1, 2006.

2. Mayor's Housing Authority Appointment

A vacancy had been created on the Housing Authority Board with the death of Mr. Ed Baxter. Executive Director Ed Watson had contact both Mayor Hardy and Archie Chaney about the appointment. Mr. Chaney had agreed to serve the unexpired term of Mr. Baxter and that appointment term would expire on May 11, 2008.

3. Package Beer and Wine Application – Russell Clegg, 4928 Maysville Road

Mr. Bryant said the location of the business would be on the right side of Highway 98 where Country Bob's was previously located. According to Mr. Bryant, all history checks had been completed and everything was in order.

4. Proposed 2006-2007 Budget Draft

City Manager Clarence Bryant said this was a draft copy of the proposed budget and he wanted to stress the word "draft". He said the council members could take a copy home with them and study it that night and give it back to him to go in their agenda packages. He would not copy it again until the final budget was ready for adoption.

Mr. Bryant said the paperwork before them was the guts of the budget. All the personnel information would be in the last copy. He said as in years past the budget reflected the expectations for the revenues and expenditures. Mr. Bryant said the SPLOST funds had been included in the revenue in the respective funds and Steve McKown said they needed to be in a separate fund. By taking those funds out the General Fund showed a decrease of 19%. Those amounts were not in the budget draft because they were still being worked on.

Mr. Bryant said the Library SPLOST funds were coming in monthly; however they were reimbursing the General Fund because the lots for the library expansion had been purchased through General Fund revenues.

Mr. Bryant said the Water and Sewer Fund would be the same way when the SPLOST funds were pulled out and put into the separate fund.

Mr. Bryant then went back to the capital improvements that were non SPLOST related. Those type items were funded by the respective departments, developers, Jackson County or other sources.

Mr. Bryant said he thought a good job had been done in estimating the 2005-2006 year end revenues and expenditures; however, he had not received the April financial statement. He said the 2006-2007 was basically what the department heads had requested. There had been one or two items that were cut because he knew they would not be funded. Mr. Bryant said he had not sat down with the General Fund department heads as he had with the utility department heads to discuss their budget. As a result of that the General Fund was out of balance \$1,021,000. However; the revenues were \$4.7 million and the General Fund, without the capital improvements, was \$4.7 million. In looking at the budget as it was it appeared that only the O&M was all that was funded in the General Fund. He was going back over the budget revenues and look at no tax increase because the digest had not been received. He had earlier put \$230,000 in the budget which would reflect an approximate 2% increase in the digest. However; that was an unknown at this time.

Mr. Bryant stated that the General Fund revenues were not growing, but the expenditures were. He reported on the projected increase in LOST for the next year and the increase over the past year was 17%. He said as new businesses open that added revenue to LOST.

Mr. Bryant also advised that there were no merit increases in any department with the exception of the Police Department. Everything was a 4% cost of living increase. In the 2005-2006 budget a 13% increase was requested for the uniformed police officers and the decision was made to break that into two budget years. In 2005-2006 there was a 6-1/2% increase and in the 2006-2007 budget there is projected a 6-1/2% increase. The CPI effective in January, 2006 was 4.8%.

Mr. Bryant then went over some capital outlay by department. In the Administration Department the budget reflected that all the windows in City Hall had to be replaced. When the current windows were put in the caulking was not done and the weather had rotted the bottom sashes and the windows would now have to be replaced. Mr. Bryant was securing bids from window contractors using either all PVC windows or wooden windows with a vinyl coating on the exterior.

In the DDA capital outlay there were no revenues in the budget for the Spencer Park renovation. Councilman Bob Sosebee said Hasco Carver, Downtown Development Executive, had met with the architect that day and they were asking for the full drawing plans and estimates. Once those were secured they could then began their donation solicitations. Councilman Sosebee said the park would be redone except the area around the monument. It would be turned into a bigger park with a wall and provide a place for children to play. There would be four (4) picnic tables place within the park. According to Councilman Sosebee the park would be designed so that concerts could be held in the streets around it and it would be a really nice place.

City Manager Clarence Bryant continued to discuss the various capital projects of all the departments of the city.

There was no other business and the work session was adjourned.

Charles L. Hardy, Jr., Mayor

Shirley Willis, City Clerk