

City of Fountain Inn
Called Council Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2016 – 6pm – Council Chambers

MAYOR AND COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor, Sam Lee
Phil Clemmer
Matthew King
John Mahony

Andrew Stoddard
Berry Woods, Jr.
Rose Ann Woods-absent

STAFF PRESENT:

Eddie Case (City Administrator)
Roger Case (Public Works)
Melissa Woods (Police)
Chris Barrineau (Recreation)
Tammy Finley (Judicial)
Jill Vales (Consultant)

Ronnie Myers (Fire)
Mike Pitman (Gas)
Naomi Buckmire (Clerk)
Byron Rucker (Economic Development)
Ross Fletcher (Gas)
Teresa Cawley (Consultant)

VISITORS: 0

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sam Lee called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

REVIEW OF CITY'S FINANCIAL POLICIES, GENERAL FUND & UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE:

- Teresa Cawley stated the unassigned fund balance should be at 20% but for financial strength the city should strive for 25% financial policy.
- The City is running below our fund balance for the 3rd year in a row.
- Our bond market is not favorable at the moment; Berry Woods asked why the City, Gas, and Sewer were not combined on bond rating. Teresa explained that they are separate funds.

GAS DEPARTMENT:

- Mike Pitman presented a service map showing new subdivisions.
- He explained the difficulties facing the gas department with limited funding to handle new services and maintain items that the Gas Department already has in place. Meter replacement-time, money, supplies, weather and personnel all factor into decision making and how much reserve the gas department should have available.
- Cost of 150 home subdivision – may cost 30-40k to attach a 4" line.
- A reserve of 8-10 Million would reduce the need for a bond. John Mahony requested a reasonable and definitive figure to assist the City financially. Mike stressed that the City needed to stop taking from the Gas department.

WEBSITE, FARMER'S MARKET & CITY PRESS CONFERENCE:

- New website is up and running, adding Instagram and Twitter to boost interest.

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- Moving the Farmer's Market from Saturday to Thursday evenings from 4-8pm starting 06/02/2016.
- Friday's Fountain Inn Natural Gas "Bandstand" will begin April 15, 2016.
- Press Conference to announce changes will be March 24th, 2016 at 11:00am at the Farmers Market Pavilion.

HOSPITALITY FUND:

- Eddie Case stated there will be a significant increase in hospitality.
- Current balance is approximately \$185,000

GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

- Jill Vales recommended the City increase savings in General Fund and Gas Fund.
- Suggested to continue \$100k in contingency for emergencies.
- Would like to present a final budget the morning of April 5, 2016, before the next budget workshop.

There was much discussion by council regarding city property and uses. New positions were discussed and the need for a code enforcement officer. No decision was made and no votes were taken.

Motion by Mayor Sam Lee to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Naomi Buckmire
City Clerk