

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hernando met for the Public Hearing Meeting at City Hall on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. with Mayor Tom Ferguson presiding. Aldermen present were: Alderman Harris, Alderman Bryant, Alderman Miller, Alderman Higdon, Alderman McLendon, Alderwoman Brooks, and Alderman Hobbs. Also present for the meeting were: City Clerk Katie Harbin, City Attorney Kenny Stockton, Human Resource Director Julie Harris, Bookkeeper Octavia Glasper, City Engineer Joe Frank Lauderdale, Court Clerk Cassandra Perry, Public Works Director Bobby Burton, Fire Chief Hubert Jones, Deputy Fire Chief Marshel Berry, Police Chief Scott Worsham, Assistant Police Chief Shane Ellis, Police Captain Kyle Hodge, Parks and Recreation Director Dewayne Williams, Donna Vecellio, Chas Emerson, Shirley McLendon, Melissa Evans, Diane Franczyk, Ron Franczyk, Dale Bellflower, Laura Sajdak, Makenzie Hedleston, Karen Hedleston, Hollie McDonald, Kelly Jacobs, Jonathan Pounders, April Thomas, Robin Hurdle, Glenda Gurley, Austin Waldrop, and Bob Bauken.

Agenda
City of Hernando
Mayor and Board of Alderman
Public Hearing

August 29, 2019

6:00pm

- 1) Call the meeting to order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approve Agenda
- 5) Public Hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies fye 2020
- 6) Adopt Resolution Setting Ad Valorem Tax Levey fye 2020
- 7) Recess

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was duly made by Alderman Higdon and seconded by Alderman Miller to approve the agenda as presented. A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Harris, Alderman Bryant, Alderman Miller, Alderman Higdon, Alderman McLendon, Alderwoman Brooks, and Alderman Hobbs.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 29th day of August, 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND TAX LEVIES FYE 2020

Mayor Ferguson opened up the Public Hearing.

Alderman Miller stated that he said 3 to 4 months ago, leading into the budget, that he wanted a flat budget, no capital improvements. Department heads can ask for them later. The Board looks at the total City. There are no raises for employees in here, I don't think we should have capital improvements and new employees if we can't give current employees raises.

Alderman McLendon asked how many new residents over this year.

Planning Director Keith Briley answered I'm not sure, I could get a number by looking at permits and census information.

Alderman McLendon asked how many new subdivisions.

Keith Briley answered about 15.

Alderman McLendon asked what the average of people in a household.

Keith Briley answered about 2.3 or 2.4. So about 210 new based off of 2.3 per household.

Mayor Ferguson went over some revenue line items in the general fund and asked if there were any questions.

Alderman Hobbs asked the total including Ad Valorem taxes.

Alderman Miller answered it's on page 2, \$15,570,614, it increased by \$759,706. Our projection is \$759,706 increase in revenues, are we over or under.

Mayor Ferguson answered we are over \$304,273.

Alderman Miller stated this budget has proposed an increase over a million.

Mayor Ferguson answered yes, with no contingency.

Alderman Miller stated you balance a budget by cutting employees or cutting requests. We won't cut employees so we have to cut request.

Alderman McLendon stated or increase revenue.

Alderman Miller stated where will we get that.

Alderman McLendon answered look department by department. I went to the county meeting today. They are suggesting changing their animal adoption fee from \$25 to \$80. Southaven's fee is \$55, Horn Lakes is \$50, Olive Branches is \$65 and Hernando's is \$10.

Alderman Hobbs stated that we were collecting \$75 for adoption for animals, but the Mayor found where our ordinance stated we charge \$10, its never been brought back to the Board to change. I don't think anyone on the Board will have a problem updating it.

Mayor Ferguson stated that he's been working with Kenny on that.

Alderman Hobbs stated that was a year ago. I think the Board will approve to change it.

Mayor Ferguson asked how did we get the \$75, where did that come from.

Alderman Hobbs answered I have no idea.

Mayor Ferguson asked if we can just start charging \$75 again.

Alderman Hobbs and Kenny Stockton answered if we change the ordinance.

Alderman Hobbs stated all we have to do is bring the Ordinance back and the Board discuss it and vote on it, and it's done, and wait 30 days.

Alderman McLendon stated the County says their estimated revenue by changing from \$25 to \$80 would bring in \$49,999

Alderwoman Brooks stated that their intake is more than ours.

Alderman McLendon stated you have an increase of people moving here, we've had to increase what we provide. They move here for the amenities.

Alderman Miller stated that won't fix the problem tonight.

Mayor Ferguson stated we don't get taxes on a new house for 2 years.

Alderman McLendon asked how many road miles did we pick up with I69.

Alderman Miller stated he's going to talk about writing tickets now.

Alderman McLendon answered no. I'm talking about the extra wrecks we have to work, a lot of them are people that don't live here.

Kenny Stockton stated we can't charge a fee for accidents we work.

Alderman Hobbs asked Fire Chief about the capital expense for \$852,600, what's that.

Alderman Higdon answered a Fire truck.

Alderman Hobbs asked why do we have to have one.

Fire Chief Hubert Jones answered because it is 15 years old, that's the longest we can run one.

Alderman McLendon asked what happens if we don't replace it.

Alderman Hobbs asked how much can we get for it.

Fire Chief Hubert Jones stated that we need a good back up, we can use it as that. We have an 81 model that we will get rid of.

Alderman Hobbs asked who makes the decision of if we need to replace one.

Fire Chief Hubert Jones answered the State Bureau.

Alderman Hobbs asked will they change our rating right away.

Alderman McLendon asked what happens if you don't get a new one.

Fire Chief Hubert Jones answered that our rating could go from a 5 to a 7, that would increase insurance for citizens.

Alderman McLendon asked how long do you have to get it replaced.

Fire Chief Hubert Jones answered that he was told he needed it this year.

Alderman McLendon stated when talking about budgets, so you start with most important or at the bottom.

Alderman Miller stated different things are more important to different people.

Alderman McLendon stated it comes to why people move here.

Alderman Miller stated different people move here for different reasons.

Alderman Harris stated he thinks we need to hand the budget back to the department heads to balance. We keep taking from the streets budget. The overtime was very large city wide.

Fire Chief Hubert Jones stated if I'm required to have a certain amount of people working and one calls out sick, how am I supposed to do it?

Alderman Harris stated \$300,000 is a lot to be over. I wouldn't want to do it, but if we can't balance, we might have to look at a tax increase. I wouldn't vote for it.

Mayor Ferguson stated that's right. We did a tax increase in 2107 and got an ambulance and paved streets. Last year we didn't and had to borrow money for our street program.

Alderman Hobbs asked about DCRUA, is this up because DCRUA is going up.

Public Works Director Bobby Burton answered that number is just based on residents.

Alderman Hobbs asked Mr. Burton to explain the DCRUA.

Public Works Director Bobby Burton the increase for DCRUA is mainly due to inflow and influx, based on rain water getting into the sewer that goes to be treated, and it doesn't need to be.

Alderman Hobbs stated why don't we look into getting someone to study this.

Bobby Burton stated that the Mayor is looking into that.

Joe Frank Lauderdale stated that DCRUA will be giving some money for some testing to the City.

Alderman Hobbs stated that he agreed with Alderman Harris, I don't want to cut a director's budget.

Alderman McLendon asked about the outside consulting in Planning.

Planning Director Keith Briley answered that is for the comprehensive plan.

Alderman McLendon asked if we paid anything on it yet?

Keith Briley answered no.

Alderman McLendon asked if we will do anything in the current year for it.

Keith Briley stated that it was his plan to get it to the Board this year.

Mayor Ferguson stated that he asked Keith to get three proposals from different consultants.

Alderman McLendon asked if we needed to do it.

Keith Briley answered yes. The Cities comp plan is 15 years old.

Alderman McLendon stated so should we wait on rezoning.

Keith Briley answered that is up to you, the comp plan is done for different things. They are two different plans.

Alderman Hobbs asked about the streets budget, what is other services for \$104,000? It was just \$2000 this year.

Mayor Ferguson answered that is street repair that isn't capital improvements, not overlays.

Alderman Hobbs asked what are they.

Mayor Ferguson answered they are partial streets, not a full overlay, patching, etc.

Alderman Hobbs asked about the study from Civil Link. Are all of those capital improvements.

Joe Frank Lauderdale answered yes. Green T where we will do a micro seal, the dip, where the pipe goes across the road, that is an area that has to be repaired before the micro seal can be done.

Alderman Harris asked Police Chief Worsham how many vehicles will the \$420,000 get.

Police Chief Worsham answered 12.

Alderman Harris asked how much did we spend on repairs.

Police Chief Worsham answered around \$60,000.

Alderman Harris stated that with that amount for repairs, I would think it would get us another year with the vehicles.

Police Chief Worsham stated the City got 14 cars years ago then didn't get any more for a while. The way I have set this up, it will only cost us \$39,000 over last year and we will sell 12 for \$50,000 or more. People on campuses want those cars. If you take the difference, the budget makes \$11,000 and brings the maintenance bill down. The explorers are extremely expensive to repair. \$500 for one headlight. WE get rid of what costs us the most money. We were in a pursuit and had an engine blow out. Our guys had to sit there. I set this up this way so it won't hurt the budget. We use these 24/7.

Mayor Ferguson stated so we will have 1 note for \$13,000 a month or 2 notes.

Chief Worsham answered 1 note for \$13,000 and another one starting in July. If you want me to do the math for you I will.

Alderman Miller stated they aren't driven 24/7, maybe 4 days a week, 12 hour shifts.

Scott Worsham stated the statement he made meant we operate 24/7/365. If we did use the cars 24/7, we'd have twice the maintenance budget. Mr. Worsham stated he would like to address the overtime mentioned. I have compared with Cities of similar size to us. The numbers I got two years ago from Planning were a population of 16,500. We know it is more now, but we will use that number. Corinth has 2.8 officers per thousand people, Ridgeland is 2.7 officers per thousand people, McComb is 2.7 officers per thousand, Long Beach is 2.5 per thousand, Oxford is 3.9 per thousand, and Flowood is 6.1 per thousand people. The FBI report 2 years ago stated the average for the southern region is 2.9 officers per thousand people. If you average 2.6 X 16,500 it is 46 officers. We pay for 36 police officers. The reality is we operate 6 to 10 officers less than other cities our size. We do our best to not have overtime. All of these events are very extremely costly to us. I can't put my staff at risk.

Alderman Harris stated if you're doing your best to manage it, I'm fine with it.

Chief Worsham stated I think we could make a lot of money for the amnesty program. I'm willing to help. I assure you, we cut our budget before we went to the first meeting. We had some request, but we took those out after our meeting with the Mayor. I don't know where else to cut.

Alderman Miller stated as we stand right now, we are \$300,000 short. Some will have to cut. I'm requesting department heads take it back.

Alderman McLendon asked if you had part time officers, would that help.

Chief Worsham answered absolutely.

Alderman Miller stated but you're still short, you're going to increase spending.

Alderman McLendon stated cut out the budgeted OT and replace with part time officers. It would save money.

Alderman Higdon asked if Chief Worsham had Desoto county numbers to compare.

Chief Worsham answered they are 2.4 to 2.8.

Alderman Higdon stated there's not doors to open to have more revenue.

Alderman McLendon asked about the soccer parking area on the street list, is that still in there.

Mayor Ferguson answered no, probably not.

Alderman Miller stated you keep pulling from overlays.

Alderman Harris stated we had 1.2 million and we've cut down to \$800,000.

Mayor Ferguson stated with no reserve.

Mayor asked if anyone from the Public had any questions.

Dell Bellflower asked about the Lanier Park.

Mayor Ferguson answered it is a sidewalk from Walmart to Byhalia, from a grant.

Dell Bellflower ask if we really need a sidewalk.

Audience stated yes.

Alderman Miller stated that even if we take that out, it will not help the budget.

Diane Franczyk stated asked about the dip in the road, why isn't the contractor fixing it.

Alderman Hobbs stated it is Green T not I69.

Diane Franczyk asked if the original contractor not responsible.

Alderman Miller answered it is out of warranty.

Mayor said we'll go back to the drawing board.

ADOPT RESOLUTION SETTING AD VALOREM TAX LEVY FYE 2020

**RESOLUTION SETTING AD VALOREM TAX LEVY FOR THE CITY OF
HERNANDO, MISSISSIPPI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 – 2020**

WHEREAS, the City of Hernando now desires to set the ad valorem tax levy for the City for the fiscal year 2019 – 2020, pursuant to the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen having carefully considered and determined the needs of the municipality and that the tax rate required to meet the expenses of said municipality for the fiscal year 2019 – 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hernando, Mississippi that the ad valorem tax rate and levies for the fiscal year 2019 – 2020 shall be as follows:

GENERAL FUND – on each dollar (\$1.00) valuation as authorized by Section 27-39-307 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, for General Revenue purposes and General Improvements, Thirty Three and 19.94/100 (33.1994) Mills.

MUNICIPAL BOND AND INTEREST FUND – on each dollar (\$1.00) valuation as authorized by Section 21-33-45 of the Mississippi Code, Annotated, Four and 6.23 (4.623) Mills.

LIBRARY FUND – on each dollar (\$1.00) valuation as authorized by Section 39-3-7 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, 9.43 (.943) Mills.

CULTURE & RECREATION FUND – on each dollar (\$1.00) valuation as authorized for park improvements and maintenance, Two and 0/100 (2.00) mills.

The total mills for 2019 – 2020 is Forty and 76.54/100 (40.7654) Mills.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Miller seconded by Alderman Higdon to approve the Resolution Setting the ad valorem tax levy for the City of Hernando for the fiscal year 2019 – 2020. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting “Aye”: Alderman Miller, Alderman Higdon, Alderman McLendon, Alderwoman Brooks, Alderman Hobbs, Alderman Harris, and Alderman Bryant.

Those voting “Nay”: None.

SO ORDERED on this the 29th day of August 2019.

Tom Ferguson, Mayor

Attest:

Katie Harbin, City Clerk

RECESS

There being no further business at this time a motion was duly made by Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderwoman Brooks to recess until September 3, 2019 at 6pm.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of “Aye”.

MAYOR TOM FERGUSON

ATTEST:

KATIE HARBIN, CITY CLERK