

City Commission meeting September 28, 1998 - 7:00 p.m. - City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gilley with all commissioners in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Mayor ask if anyone in attendance or the commission wanted to have these minutes read or there were any questions or discussion of same. With no comments to be heard, Comm. Martin presented a motion the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Cooke. roll call and vote -Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

2. Treasurer's report

The report was considered by the commission and with no comments, additions or corrections, Comm. Lacy presneted a motion the report be accepted as printed, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

3. First reading Ordinance #98-1 230.1 - City personnel policy and procedure

The commission had been reviewing the rough draft presented to them for a period of six months. Comm. Cooke presented a motion the first reading of this ordinance be accepted, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

4. 1999 vehicle and watercraft tax

The Mayor explained that this tax had been lowered from 36¢ to 20¢ in the last few years. Members of the audience voiced an opinion that they felt it should not be lowered again. The clerk ask the commission to remember that they could lower the tax, but it could not be raised. After a brief discussion, Comm. Martin floored a motion the 1999 vehicle and watercraft tax remain at 20¢ per \$100.00 assessed valuation, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

5. 4% tax rate hearing

Mayor Gilley explained that the clerk, annually, is given a formula as a guide to set the rate for the real and personal property taxes. The prior rate for 1997 was 10.1¢ per \$100.00 assessment, and this year's rate fugures at 8¢ per \$100.00 assessment. Thus the income for 1998 would be \$21,762.18 compared with \$22,458.01 in 1997. With the 4% exceeding the compensating rate, the city would realize \$816.08. But the main reason for this would be to hopefully keep the future rates from becoming too low. Comm. Lacy presented a motion the city have a hearing to accept the 4% tax increase, which would still be 1.8¢ per \$100.00 assessment, lower than the 1997 rate, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

6. Cemetery wall repair-discussion

The commission all agreed that this had been a topic of discussion for a long period of time, and the wall continues to deteriorate. All in attendance agreed that the wall needed repair. The city had received a bid, (attached) to repair the entire wall for \$4,800.00. Shelvie Dubree ask if the cemetery funds would pay for this. Mayor Gilley said the city would assume the bill since the cemetery funds were not adequate in s2endable funds. Comm. Cooke presented a motion the city accept the bid of \$4,800.00 from Jim Robinson and Tim Shadeburn, seconded by Comm. Martin. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

7. Department reports

Cemetery: Comm. Lacy said that he and Comm. Cooke had worked at the cemetery cutting and trimming in the area close to the main entrance. He also said that in his opinion, the cemetery, as a whole looks good.,

Streets: Comm. Hardy said there was a stop sign down at Sunset & Mill St. and he would see that it was replaced.

Police: Comm. Martin read the monthly report, (attached). She then informed the commission that James Graves has agreed to start work on a full time basis, after their annual 40 hour training ends 10/9/98. He will earn \$8.00 per hour and work three days and two nights, and in all probability he and Chief Sneed will alternate these hours. She also said that Chief Sneed's salary would be increased to \$8.75. She ask the commission and those in attendance their opinions of these recommendations. Mayor Gilley said James Grave's salary would be covered under the COPS grant the city had obtained. Comm. Lacy said it was his opinion the city had two very good officers and should do what was necessary to keep them. All in attendance agreed with commissioner Lacy comments. Comm. Martin presented a motion, effective, 10/10/1998 James Graves would start on a full time basis at the above named salary and work the days named, seconded by Comm. Cooke. roll call and vote-Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes. Comm. Martin then added that both of the officers observe people out on the streets at 2-3 in the morning, and she felt the officers should stop them to see if they need assistance or why they were out.

Walter McCay took exception to this saying that it was an invasion of an individuals privacy. Comm. Hardy said he would be glad for the officers to stop anyone that was in the area of his place of business, or his residence .. He was of the opinion that both of the officers knew the city very well and would be aware if a stranger or someone who was not supposed to be out needed to be checked. All of the commission as well as those in attendance, with the exception of Mr. McCay agreed. Comm. Martin then ask the opinion of the commission regarding the hiring of a third officer as our grant allows. She suggested the city see how the new hours with the two existing officers works. She felt the added expense of a car equipment and other things that are involved are too much expense for the city at the present time. Shelvie Dubree commented with the crime rate as low as the two officers now have it, she felt it would be an unnecessary expense right now. Steve Watt wondered how the police officers felt about this. Both commented, that at the present time they felt they could handle the city without additional officers.

8. Other

Shelvie Dubree ask the commission if they knew when the Hays-Smiths Grove Road was going to be repaired by the Water Co. Mayor Gilley said we had been in touch with them three times and they have promised it would be repaired. The clerk agreed to contact them again. Mrs. Dubree then ask if there was an ordinance against having a number of dogs in a fenced area within the city. The clerk agreed to check the Ordinance the city passed regarding livestock to see. Mrs. Dubree said if it wasn't addressed in the ordinance she felt it should be. Comm. Lacy then addressed the commission regarding a raise of 5% for the clerk and the Mayor from \$500.00 to \$1000.00, and the commission from \$300.00 to \$500.00. Mayor Gilley commented that he really didn't want a raise. Steve Watt commented that being an official for the city is a very thankless job and he felt they deserved a raise. The commission discussed the figures that Comm. Lacy has presented, then decided that they would agree to a \$100.00 annual raise for the officials. Comm. Cooke presented a motion to give the clerk a 5% raise and the commission a \$100.00 annual raise, seconded by Comm. Martin. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes. Mr. McCay said he really took exception to these raises as the city was holding a hearing for a 4% tax rate increase due to the lack of funds but now found the money to give themselves a raise. The clerk tried to explain to Mr. McCay that the 4% tax hearing wasn't due to lack of funds but to keep the tax rate from lowering each year, as it now does. She also said that the raises the commission voted in would be for the incoming commissioners in 1999.

Mayor Gilley then introduced Kenneth Cone who is a candidate for the District 4 Magistrate office. Mr. Kone told those in attendance that he had in existence a phone where people could contact his 24 hours daily if needed for assistance. He said if he were to be elected he would attend commission meetings in all of the citys in his area, and have monthly meetings set up for citizens to come to him with problems. He thanked the commission and those in attendance for their time and attention.

With no further business to be presented, Comm. Cooke floored a motion to adjourn.

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST: _____
James R. Gilley, Mayor Dorothy J. Neal, City Clerk