

CITY OF MACCLENNY
Regular Meeting
July 8, 2014
6:00 p.m.

The City Commission met in a regular session, Tuesday, July 8, 2014 with the following present: Mayor Gary Dopson, City Manager Phil Rhoden, Commissioners Floyd V. Bennett, Mark Bryant, Sam Kitching, and Cecil Horne Jr.

Mayor Dopson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Kitching opened the meeting with prayer, followed by a pledge to the United States Flag.

Mayor Dopson recognized City Attorney Frank Maloney to read ordinance 14-07, a bill to be entitled an ordinance amending code of ordinances, chapter 13, article II, occupational license tax; to amend rates for occupational license. Mayor Dopson asked the attorney to change the ordinance wording from occupational license to business permit to be consistent with the state statute, per Mr. Maloney's recommendation. Mr. Maloney stated 3 years ago the legislature changed occupational license to business permit and that the amendment doesn't change anything else other than the wording. Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve with the change of wording the second reading of Ordinance 14-07 and was seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Voting was unanimous.

Mayor Dopson recognized Mr. Gene Harvey to discuss adjustments to current and prior years Ad Valorem Tax disbursements. Mr. Harvey stated in July 2013, the School Board brought it to the attention of the Tax Collector the disbursements of revenues were incorrect. After several meetings with the School Board it was discovered the computer software program had a malfunction. It was under distributing monies to the School Board and over distributing monies to all other taxing authorities, including the City of Macclenny. For the 2012 tax year \$23,034 was over disbursed to the City and has been refunded to the School Board. Over the next 5-6 years the Tax Collector will retrieve the overpayments of \$137,000 from the City dating back to tax year 2008 and reimburse the School.

Mayor Dopson recognized Mr. Mike Walker to pursue condemnation on a home located at 137 South College St. Mr. Mike Walker stated there have been several letters mailed out to Five Brothers which is the property manager for Green Tree Solutions, and no response from either company. Mr. Walker stated he hopes a letter condemning this property might get one of them in action to clean up at least the inside. The City has condemned a lot worse houses and all we ask this company to do is clean up and bring the house up to Florida Building Codes. Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve the condemnation at 137 South College St. and was seconded by Commissioner Bryant. Voting was unanimous.

City Manager Phil Rhoden updated the Council on the fire station project. Manager Rhoden stated Rural Development has given the go ahead but pre construction costs have gone from 1.2 million to 1.8 million. The tentative dates are: advertise for bids July 18, pre bid meeting August 15, bids are due September 5, and could possibly award the bid at the next City Council meeting on September 9, 2014.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the TRIM figures. City Manager Phil Rhoden stated we would like the public to understand we have no intentions at this time to raise the millage rate. If at all possible we intend to come in at 3.6 mills. The TRIM process requires setting high and lowering if we can without extra cost to the City. We are asking you to consider something in the range of 3.94 for worst case scenario and still working off of soft numbers.

Manager Rhoden spoke with the Sheriff who asked for a \$71,000 increase from last year's budget of \$686,725. I let him know the City couldn't do that and we need to look at cutting the budget \$100, to \$125,000, this is not a hard firm number by any means. We trimmed last years as much as we could in-house and we are paying for it this year. Unless something changes with the economy next year we will trim even more. We are estimating \$550,000 to do road paving, and a fire station payment more than what we planned for.

We have infrastructure issues that we must address. The estimate on just sewer repairs is \$12.7 million and pursuing a grant of \$4.2 million. This is not about the quality of service; they have done a wonderful job. I hope it's something we can work out and they are willing to negotiate on the contract. We are facing so many increases, our budget 15% on insurance if we stay with the same policy looking at 19-36% increase. We are not passing a tax increase tonight.

Mayor Dopson stated it is nothing against the Sheriff; he does a good job, history goes back when we had a city Police Department, and did our own dispatch. In the early years the contract saved quite a bit of money and did so for quite a few years. The purpose of the contract was to provide extra protection for the city. We (commercial & residential) pay county taxes, but can run the city on revenue collected by the city. For police protection we are covered under our county taxes, we will lose some extra protection, depending on how much we have to decrease. Last year was a good year as far as pipes bursting and having to fix them. So this year we have to fix the infrastructure, gray water drainage, paving and we just don't have the money. Three to four million is a significant amount of money and if times get better we can take a look at it, but for now we are slowly going to hack away at this sum of money. We won't do it all in one year. We plan on being fair to the county and how hard we hit them. There is no animosity towards the Sheriff and I consider him a friend. I feel we have to do what's best for the City at this point.

Mayor Dopson recommends setting TRIM at 4.3628 adjusted roll back rate. We will shoot for 3.6 and can always drop back but we can't go up. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve the TRIM at 4.3628, and was seconded by Commissioner Kitching. Voting was unanimous.


Mr. Clay Lyons from Lyons & Lyons CPA's presented the 2012-2013 annual audit report. He said there are two findings which are the same as previous years. The first one is segregation of duties. The second finding is we proposed material adjustments to the City's financial statements. The reason for these is the limited number of personnel. Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve the 2012-2013 audits, and was seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Voting was unanimous.

In other business was approval of the Minutes from the month of June. Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve the minutes, and was seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Voting was unanimous.

In other business was the review of the bills for June. Motion to approve the June bills was made by Commissioner Kitching and was seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Voting was unanimous.

Comments from the Board: none

With no further comments from the audience, Mayor Dopson adjourned the regular meeting.


MAYOR GARY DOPSON

ATTEST: 
CITY MANAGER/ CLERK Phil Rhoden

