

CITY OF MACCLENNY
Special session
September 25, 2012
5:15 p.m.

The City Commission met in special session, Tuesday, September 25, 2012 with the following present: Mayor Gary Dopson, City Manager Gerald Dopson, Commissioners Tommy Johns, Phil Rhoden, Richard Johnson and Floyd V. Bennett.

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

Mayor Dopson said the purpose of the meeting is for the taxing authority to adopt the final budget and millage rate, and publicly announce the percent, if any, by which the re-computed millage exceeds the rolled-back rate. The millage rate of 3.6000 is less than the rolled-back rate of 3.7033 mills by 2.79%.

First order of business is the approval of Resolution 12-06 adopting the final levy of ad valorem taxes for Baker County for fiscal year 2012/13. Mayor Dopson read the resolution by title only. The fiscal year 2012/13 operating millage rate for the City of Macclenny is 3.600 mills which is less than the rolled back rate of 3.7033 mills by 2.79%. The resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve Resolution 12-06. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor by all Commissioners. Resolution 12-06 was duly adopted at 5:16 pm.

The second order of business was the approval of Resolution 12-07 adopting the final budget of \$8,156,311. Mayor Dopson read the resolution by title only. The City of Macclenny has set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the budget for Fiscal year 2012/13 in the amount of \$8,156,311. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve Resolution 12-07. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor by all Commissioners. Resolution 12-07 was duly adopted at 5:20 pm.

City Manager Gerald Dopson said while we are talking about our fiscal status of where we are and where we might be, the amendment process has gotten quite overwhelming for the voters. One of the amendments that would have direct effect on the cities and counties is Amendment 4. It deals with tax issues, how the ad valorem tax is applied and the exemption process. If it is approved, it will place additional exemptions on certain properties that, in the League of Cities view, will significantly impact the local government's ability to maintain its ad valorem proceeds let alone survive utilizing the ad valorem tax levy. Even trying to hold it down and we have been committed to doing that. He had read in the City of Jacksonville, if passed, it would affect them by about 15 million dollars in their ad valorem proceeds. Here in the City of Macclenny, we would not be at that point but unfortunately it could affect us by \$10-12,000. We have had to go down constantly on what we can anticipate receiving. He wanted to ask the Commissioners to take a look at Amendment 4. He asked Cherie Hedrick to make copies of the literature we had received for the Commissioners review. He feels it would affect the process and the proceeds we get in a trending downward spiral. He asked they read it and think about it when they go to vote. It's a tough thing to try to get out there and campaign against the general consumer when they look and see their taxes are going to be reduced. It's hard for them not to vote for it. That's just the way it is. As things continue to go forward, the associations of counties and cities say that's good but the services will be reduced as well. People need to be aware of that. Commissioner Bennett said he had received something in the mail this past week recommending voting for Amendment 4. They are already working on getting it passed. He also said in the Jacksonville Times Union Newspaper today, there must have been 15 amendments listed in the paper. Mayor Dopson said it is not very often you see an amendment fail. City Manager Dopson said he thought it might pass. He wanted to encourage the Commissioners to look at it and get their own view and opinion of how it will affect the City's operation.

With no further business, the special meeting was adjourned.


MAYOR GARY DOPSON

ATTEST:


CITY MANAGER/ CLERK GERALD DOPSON



City Of Macclenny