

**TOWN OF HILDEBRAN
TOWN HALL
MEETING ROOM**

**JUNE 8, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

**RECESSED SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Pro Tem L. Lowman reconvened the recessed special meeting/budget workshop at 6:07 p.m.
- COUNCIL PRESENT** The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Pro Tem L. Lowman, Council Members Brenda Banks, Wendell Hildebrand and B. Lowman. Mayor Virginia Cook and Council Member Jamie Hollowell were absent.
- STAFF PRESENT** The following staff members were present: Town Clerk Alice Sanders, Finance Officer Fredrick Rankins and Attorney Dill arrived at 6:17 p.m.
- CITIZENS PRESENT** See attached list.
- MEDIA** No media attended the meeting.
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA** Council Member Hildebrand made a motion to adopt the agenda. All voted in favor.
- ITEM OF BUSINESS BUDGET WORKSHOP** Mayor Pro Tem L. Lowman reported that a decision to include a line item in the proposed budget for ground maintenance at the area on Hwy 70A near the railroad tracks needed to be made. Clerk Sanders reported that the proposed budget already included \$4,050.00, which is the same amount in the current budget year. She explained that the last quotes provided to maintain the area would require an increase to \$4,200.00 plus a possible higher fee for the first cutting due to the overgrowth.
- Ms. Sanders informed Council that according to law, vendors must have certain pesticide licenses to spray at that area. The licenses required include sections: E Core; H Right-of-Way Pest Control; and L Ornamental & Turf Pest Control. She stated that, to her knowledge, of all the times the Town has obtained quotes, Steve Young with The Groundskeeper is the only vendor that has the H Right-of-Way Pest Control license. Council Member Hildebrand stated that the ditch is sprayed. Ms. Sanders reported that in the past, spraying has been done three times a year and the manpower to mow and weed eat is two people for a total of 24 hours each month. She stated that the area was landscaped eight times per year in the past.
- Mayor Pro Tem L. Lowman addressed his desire to maintain other areas leading into Town as well, especially Hwy 70. Council Member Hildebrand agreed that other areas should be maintained.
- Attorney Dill arrived at 6:14 p.m.

Ms. Sanders reported that Maintenance Technician Bivens had prepared a report for him and Mr. Walker to maintain the area from KFC to Carolina BBQ on Hwy 70. He estimated eight hours for both of them initially to clean up the area to include mowing close to the ditch and guardrails and four hours to maintain the area after the initial cleanup.

Mr. Rankins reported that \$2,600.00 was remaining in the current budget for maintaining this area.

Council asked if the Town could request to get someone doing community service to pick up trash in the area.

Council was in agreement to maintain overgrowth along the Town limits on Hwy 70, especially the guardrails. It was pointed out that homeowners and businesses along the road maintain their own land. Ms. Sanders informed the Board that Mr. Bivens did have the required licenses to spray along roads and the railroad.

There was discussion about Mr. Bivens spraying the ditch area at Hwy 70A and the railroad and investing in an electric sprayer with the current budget's funds.

Ms. Sanders left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

After discussion, Council Member B. Lowman made a motion to raise the Improvement – Hwy 70A/RR line item to \$5,000.00. All voted in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem explained that the Board needs to decide on an amount for the Golden Leaf grant that was awarded to Western Piedmont Community College. He stated that Mayor Cook had figured \$1.00 per Town resident as an amount to allocate in the budget. Attorney Dill stated that the local match was \$433,400.00 for the mechatronics program to train people for current year jobs. The County has agreed to list all local contributors. Council Member B. Lowman made a motion to include a line item for \$2,000.00 for the Golden Leaf grant match in the FY 2015-2016 budget. All voted in favor.

Attorney Dill stated that there is a grant match for VEDIC, which is now County wide. Mayor Pro Tem L. Lowman stated that currently, VEDIC is looking to assist a couple of businesses in this area and \$2,000.00 would be a fair amount to allocate to the budget. Mayor Banks made a motion to include a line item for \$2,000.00 for VEDIC in the FY 2015-2016 budget. All voted in favor.

Mr. Rankins stated that Mayor Cook had requested to increase the Miscellaneous line item by \$1,000.00 for a total of \$5,000.00 for local meetings with the Council of Governments, etc. Council Member B.

Lowman made a motion to increase the amount to \$5,000.00 in the FY 2015-2016 budget. All voted in favor.

Council Member Hollowell had previously asked for a line item under Maintenance for a yearly reserve for equipment in the amount of \$1,500.00. Council Member B. Lowman made a motion to change the line item to Equipment Reserve Fund and to include \$1,500.00 in the FY 2015-2016 budget. All voted in favor.

Mr. Rankins explained that Council had previously approved the purchase of a new lawnmower and repair on the elevator at the May 18, 2015 meeting. An official budget amendment is needed for these two items. Council decided to table this action until the June 22, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Rankins reported that an additional invoice from Stephens Sign & Erection Co. Inc. had been presented to the Town in the amount of \$3,127.65 for the digital sign. He stated that the original bill was \$23,000.00 and was already paid. He explained that the original bid was \$23,000.00 but additional items were asked for that were not included in the original bid. Council decided to table this action until the June 22, 2015 meeting for more clarification.

Mr. Rankins reviewed the changes made to the budget worksheet since the last meeting.

- The Current Year Tax under Ad Valorem Tax was increased.
- Dues & Subscriptions was reduced.
- Insurance Property and Liability was increased due to cost to insure during cruise ins and festivals.
- Richelieu Grant Match County was originally in the current year budget and has not been used and the amount will be carried over to next year's budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT Council Member B. Lowman made a motion at 6:55 p.m. to recess the special meeting/budget workshop to June 22, 2015. All voted in favor.

I attest these are the approved minutes of the Board.

Alice Sanders, Town Clerk

Virginia Cook, Mayor