

TOWN OF WILKESON
Public Hearings for the 2012 Budget & 2012 Tax Levy
Regular Council Meeting
November 9, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hogerhuis called to order the Public Hearings and the Regular Council meeting of November 9, 2011 at 6:30PM.

ROLL CALL: Council members D. McQueen, R. Gilbert, B. Thawsh (absent from Public Hearings), T. Summers and S. Haubrich were present. Attorney Mike Reynolds and Clerk/Treasurer Melanie Kohn were also present.

Open Public Hearing for 2012 Tax Levy: Mayor opened public hearing at 6:30pm

Mayor discussed Ordinance 2011.07 establishing the amount of tax levy's necessary to meet the estimated authorized taxes to support expenses for the year 2012.

Citizen Comments: None

Close Public Hearing: Mayor closed public hearing at 6:45pm

Open Public Hearing for 2012 Budget: Mayor opened public hearing at 6:45pm

Mayor discussed the proposed budget including the proposed cuts to accommodate the town's decrease in revenue sources. She also discussed the proposed water rate increase of 10% as advised by our engineering firm Gray & Osborne. This would include both the flat fee and consumption rate. These funds will go into the reserve. Wilkeson will need to increase the balance of the water reserve in order to plan for needed future improvements.

Citizen Comments:

Janet Kepka: would suggest water rate increase to be added to consumption rather than the flat rate.

Karen Osgoodby: does the town have emergency supplies or funding? Mayor: We have sand bags on hand for protection against flooding and help from Pierce County and community volunteers to assist during floods. The town's quarterly newsletter in October had a list on how to prepare for disasters. The town also is working on updating its emergency plan with the county.

Florence Fabiani: No comment

Close Public Hearing: Mayor closed public hearing at 7:16pm.

Open Regular Council Meeting: Mayor opened the regular council meeting at 7:16pm.

Approval of the Regular Council Meeting minutes for October 26, 2011

Councilmember Haubrich made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2011. Councilmember Summers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills for November 9, 2011 as budgeted

Councilmember Haubrich made a motion to approve the bills for November 9, 2011 as budgeted. Councilmember Gilbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance No. 2011.07 Tax Levy

Councilmember McQueen made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2011.07, an ordinance of the Town of Wilkeson, Pierce County, Washington establishing the amount of tax levy's necessary to meet the estimated authorized taxes to support expenses for the year 2012. Councilmember Summers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Ordinance No. 2011.08 Request for highest lawful levy for 2012

Councilmember Summers made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2011.08, an ordinance of the Town of Wilkeson, Pierce County, Washington complying with RCW 84.55.120 requesting the highest lawful levy for 2012. Councilmember McQueen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion to give the Mayor approval to allow Gray & Osborne to apply for a community block grant for the following two projects: the watershed plant comprehensive plan (which needs to be updated) and a new roof and bay at the treatment plant.
Councilmember Summers asked if we will have to pay Gray & Osborne for their time applying for the grant even if the town doesn't get it. Mayor: No, there is no cost to the town. Councilmember Haubrich made a motion to give the Mayor approval to allow Gray & Osborne to apply for a community block grant to update the watershed plant comprehensive plan and to replace the roof and add another bay at the treatment plant. Councilmember Gilbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. White River School District tour November 14th at 7:30a.m.
The Mayor and Council were invited by the school district to attend a tour of the district. The Mayor has prior commitments and can't attend so she invited any available council members to attend. Councilmember Summers said that she might be available.
5. Budget Issues
Mayor Hogerhuis asked if any of the council members had questions or concerns about the proposed budget. Councilmember Summers inquired about the Pierce County Animal Control and if it had been removed from the budget. The Mayor replied that the animal control had been removed from the budget as we did not receive any services from staff calls. No other councilmember's had questions or concerns.
6. Water Rate Increase
Mayor Hogerhuis handed out a proposed water rate increase chart that has both a flat rate and a water usage increase of 10%. The town has been awarded a \$208,000.00 loan from the public trust fund with very low interest rates. These funds can be used for the two large projects in the watershed. The Mayor asked to table these projects until further research of need and costs are completed. Council discussed and decided to table this until the next council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT: 1) Met with Kerry Rooney from the Pierce County Executive Office and gave her an update on Wilkeson. I asked for information on: the new census data; news on the Coke Oven Park/county rezoning; updates on the new countywide emergency dispatch system and placement of 911 towers; and information on the new storm water mandates. 2) Met with both City of Buckley and the Buckley Police Department and also the Pierce County Sheriff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets, Sidewalks, Parking and Trails – 1) Trisha requested information on the sand bags again. Town Clerk Melanie Kohn will get her the information.

Community Development – 1) Reminder that the Christmas tree lighting is on December 3rd from 3:30-5p.m.

CITIZEN'S PRESENT/COMMENTS:

Janet Kepka – What is the \$208,000 loan and can't we apply for a grant to pay for the projects? Mayor Hogerhuis: It is a public trust fund loan for the filtration system and the new pipeline in the watershed. We may not need the full amount and have five years to act on it. It has a very low interest rate and the Town of Wilkeson is very fortunate to have been awarded the loan. As for grants, I will keep looking and applying for grants but there isn't as many available as in the past.

Florence Fabiani – The raise in water rates is for anticipation? Mayor Hogerhuis: No, we know we have projects that need to be completed. The reserve built up in the next year or so will pay for the down payment and then after that the loan payment. We will need to pay for a down payment on the loan. The more the town can pay as a down payment upfront, the lower the interest rate from about 1.5% to .5%.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Thawsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember McQueen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved by Council on the 22nd day of November, 2011

Prepared by: Melanie Kohn, Clerk _____

Attest: Mayor Donna Hogerhuis _____