

Regular Council Meeting

August 6, 2024

Meeting called to order by Mayor Harley at 6:00pm.

Invocation given by Mayor Harley.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Evans.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley.

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr., Councilman Justin Wright, Councilman J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Edward Armijo and City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Public Comments

None

Adoption of Minutes: Motion made by Councilman Evans as written; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

- July 16, 2024, Council Work Session

Old Business

New Business

Discussion 2024 Millage Rate: Councilman Armijo recognized City Accountant Harrison. Mrs. Harrison provided a copy of the PT 32.1 (prepared 2 for review, one with current millage and one with the roll back rate). This year, there was a reassessment of properties and other changes to the digest, total exemptions, senior, personal property, veteran's exemptions. The second schedule is a comparison with alternative estimate property taxes that would be levied under these each example. City Accountant Harrison is seeking direction from council about what millage rate they would like to propose. If something higher than the roll back rate is proposed, then the City must do proper advertising and have three public hearings. If City proposed to adopt the rollback rate, then no advertising nor public hearings would be required.

Mayor and Council had a general discussion regarding roll back rate or proposing a millage rate of 9.5 2024.

Councilman Wright inquired about a relationship with FY 25 budget that was approved and 9.5, 2024 millage rate that would generate a \$19,000 difference.

Councilman Bird stated that he is willing to entertain 9.5 millage rate, don't see we could politically go with the roll back rate, go somewhere in the middle.

Councilman Wright stated in the past collections, his preference would be to adopt roll back rate and later move money vs having (3) meetings-public hearings; \$ 20,000 isn't a huge contingency, where could we pull money.

City Accountant Harrison replied General Fund Contingency.

Councilman Bird reminded all of the current fund transfer from Water and Sewer.

Mayor Harley stressed to everyone that a COLA was not included in the FY 25 budget for the employees.

Councilman Evans stated the city is always competing with other entities around us for employees/hires.

Councilman Wright seeking clarification on COLA , FY2025 budget and 2024 millage rate how that all comes into play.

Mayor Harley explained the importance of taking care of the employees and providing services for the citizens of Centerville.

Councilman Evans stated we have to remember employees live somewhere too, one thing we have to consider when setting the millage rate, cost of living has gone up for everyone.

Councilman Armijo asked if we are suggesting going with millage rate of 9.5?

Councilman Bird in favor of the proposed 9.5 millage rate, this is reasonable.

Councilman Wright stressed if this millage rate is approved, would this be used for raises in the budget?

Councilman Armijo stated that the Council can with can start with the 9.5 and get feedback.

City Accountant and City Attorney reminded that any proposed amount over the rollback rate must be advertised/discussed in 3 public hearings. The proposed millage rate (unless rollback rate is adopted) is not a fluid number – any change would have to be advertised and subject to public hearings.

Motion made by Councilman Armijo to propose 2024 millage rate of 9.5; seconded by Councilman Bird.

City Accountant Harrison stated that the public hearing timeline is as follows: 1st hearing August 20, 2024, at 11am and 2nd public hearing August 20, 2024, at 5pm; 3rd public hearing and proposed adoption September 3 at 6pm on September 3, 2024.

Councilman Wright asked if we adopt the 9.5 millage rate is the intent of the council to utilize the additional revenue generated for employee compensation.

Mayor Harley said no we can do what we want to do with this, having extra money in the budget.

Mayor Harley called for the vote. Councilman Wright opposed; all others voted in favor.

Motion carried.

Approval of bids: Councilman Evans recognized Chief Duncan. 1. Repair of PD HVAC units - Has had Keadle come out and do repairs, however they have not been able to get HVAC units working correctly. Provided a quote to from Bucky Holland HVAC to replace units. \$14,850.00. 2. Repair Gate – Entrance to back parking lot. \$10,900.00. Funding to come from with funds machinery & equipment, maintenance & repairs and supplies line items within current budget.

Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve repairs/work with money from funding sources as requested; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

Point of Information-Assistance to Firefighters Grant Information: Councilman Bird recognized Chief Jones. Chief Jones explained the City has a 5% cost share match (total \$47, 619 5 % cost share match \$2,380.96) which will come from the Fire Department's small equipment line-item budget. The grant and matching funds money will buy 5 new SCAP fire breathing apparatus. Have applied for this grant in past years and received funding for a fire truck, so this year the FD received the mini grant. The last time CFD received a grant under this program was 2013-14; however, the Chief applies every year.

Councilman Evans inquired are these reimbursable funds.

Chief Jones confirmed yes, we will have the funds.

Mayor Harley informed all that there was a good interview on Channel 41. Also press release was given to other media.

Home Based Business: Premiere Ground Control, 105 Chase Circle (Victor Broomfield):
Councilman Armijo motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, no comment.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, no comment.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, no comment.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, no comment.

Mayor Harley informed all that he attended the Houston County Commission meeting, updated provided about the landfill expansion, they are in talking stages once approved will begin working on the expansion.

Executive Session: Motion made by Councilman Evans to enter into executive session at 6:33pm; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Mayor and Council reconvened at 8:01pm.

Affidavit & Resolution: City Attorney Tydings read resolution. Motion to approve made by Councilman Evans; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried. Affidavit executed by Mayor Harley and notarized by City Clerk Bedingfield. Affidavit and Resolution attached and made part of official minutes.

Mayor Harley adjourned the meeting at 8:04pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date