

Minutes of BUDGET HEARING
City of Weston Lakes, City Council Meeting
Simonton City Hall, 35011 FM 1093, Simonton Texas 77476
Saturday, August 21, 2010
2:00 pm

1. Call to Order. The regular meeting of the Weston Lakes City Council was called to order at 2:02 PM on the 21st Day of August 2010 by Mayor Mary Rose Zdunkewicz. A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Mayor Mary Rose Zdunkewicz
Alderman Clifton Aldrich
Alderman Denis DeLuca

Alderman Trent Thomas
Alderman Gary Owens
Alderman Ted Case

Marshal Ronald Horowitz
Kathy Nida

Public Present:

Rhea Ragle
Bill Ragle

Robert Bernard
Linda Harnest

Fran Aldrich

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Alderman Trent Thomas led the Council in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Review. Conduct a City Council Public Hearing for the presentation of the proposed 2011 Budget.

Mr. Bernard asked for an explanation of each line item, how the Council arrived at that amount of money, and what the funds would cover.

The Mayor said she would review the entire budget.

- **AUDIT:** The \$3,000 is an estimate. The Mayor is talking to several auditors to get quotes on having the City's first audit done.
- **ELECTION COSTS:** \$6,500 is an estimate to cover the cost of a joint election with the county
- **EMERGENCY GENERATOR:** \$32,000 - will be paid for with a FEMA grant. The City's share will be \$8,000
- **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER ENHANCEMENTS:** \$30,000 Also grant money that will fund electronic and communication equipment for the EOC.
- **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:** \$5,000 for basic office supplies and equipment
- **ENGINEER:** \$4,000. In anticipation of reviewing and possibly protesting the new FIRM flood plain maps
- **FACILITIES:** \$7,000. City Offices Lease from City of Simonton
- **FLOOD PLAIN PERMIT FEES:** \$1,600. The amount zeros-out with the Flood Plain Permit Fees under Revenue as the City does not make money on Permit Fees. It simply collects the fee charged by the Flood Plain engineer.
- **LEGAL FEES:** \$10,000. The Mayor likes to keep a cushion in this line item so she has the ability to consult with the City Attorney on an as-needed basis.
- **LEGAL NOTICES:** \$200.00. Covers the cost of Legal Notices that are required to be posted in the paper.
- **MAILINGS TO RESIDENTS:** \$300. Covers the cost of materials such as post cards or paper/envelopes.
- **MARSHAL'S OFFICE:** \$6,000. To cover the cost of 4 non-paid deputies (Liability and Workman's Comp Insurance) and a possible vehicle (maintenance and insurance).
- **MEMBERSHIP FEES:** \$1,900. The City belongs to the following professional organizations: Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Corporation, H-GAC, TML
- **MISCELLANEOUS:** \$2,000. To allow the City to participate in cosponsoring celebrations (such as 4th of July) and promote the City in a positive light in publications such as the Resource Guide.

- OFFICE EQUIPMENT: \$3,500. The City is in need of a good, reliable copy machine. That would be covered in this budget item.
- OFFICE SUPPLIES: \$600.00. General office supplies
- OFFICE FURNISHINGS: \$500.0 The Mayor would like to purchase a couple of pictures for the walls in the City Office.
- PAYROLL: \$9,000. City Secretary
- PAYROLL TAX EXPENSES: \$900 Tax Liabilities
- PERFORMANCE BONDS: \$100 One for each the Marshal and the Secretary
- PO BOX: \$62.00 to maintain the PO Box
- POSTAGE: \$1,000 For general mail and City Residents Mailings
- SECRETARY TRAINING: \$1,500 should classes arise that the Secretary needs to attend
- SIGNAGE: \$300.00 To have a sign made to use in Simonton City Hall to cover their logo during Council Meeting or other official business.
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS: \$1,000 Annual phone bill
- TML RISK POOL/INSURANCE: \$2,000
- TRAINING, TRAVEL & SEMINARS: \$5,000 To allow members of the Council to attend meetings or seminars offered.
- WEBSITE/IT SUPPORT/ ISP: \$500.00 Includes web hosting.

The Mayor then addressed the Revenue. The City receives its revenue from Franchise Fees (CenterPoint Gas & Electric & Telecommunications), Alcohol Beverage Fees and Grant Money.

The City is fiscally responsible and does not spend the citizen's money foolishly. Alderman Owens pointed out the City is currently ahead of budget for the current fiscal year by about \$30,000.

Mr. Bernard addressed the council saying he had some specific questions about certain line items. 1.) He questioned the audit fees and wanted to know if there had been any past audits. The Mayor is currently talking to several auditors about getting quotes to have the City's first audit done. 2.) What is it for, where is it, what will it power? Alderman Aldrich explained that the City leases the Weston Lakes ballroom at the country club. The generator will be installed there to power the electronic equipment and communication equipment in the event of an emergency and the Mayor orders the Emergency Operation Center to be activated. The EOC will also operate as a Cooling Center during a power outage and a Shelter-of-Last-Resort to residents in distress until they can relocate to a Red Cross Shelter. 3.) What is the Engineer Flood Plain cost of \$4,000 for? With the new FIRM (flood plain maps) going into effect in May or June of next year, the public is going through an appeals process. The Engineer is working with the City on an as-needed basis during the protest process being paid an hourly rate. 4.) How much did the City spend on Legal Fees last year and why is there so much allotted for that line item? Alderman Owens said last year the City budgeted \$12,000 for legal fees and only spent a little over \$2,000. The City has been very fortunate in not needing the lawyer's services. However, the Mayor likes to keep a large amount in that line item so she can talk to the lawyer whenever the need arises. The lawyer's hourly rate is \$175. 5.) In the Marshal's office there is \$6,000, what does that cover? Alderman Aldrich explained that the Council has voted to create 4 deputy marshal (non-paid) positions, pending a detailed job description including a scope of duties and a written policy & procedures document. The Marshal has applied for grants to cover the cost of emergency radios and a vehicle. IF a vehicle is obtained, the budget covers expenses that would be incurred. 6.) Where is the grant coming from and how much is it for? The Marshal has applied through the 100 Club for \$13,000. He has also applied for a grant for a vehicle, but the Mayor was not sure who the grant was through. She also pointed out that the Marshal was not at the meeting to answer specific questions concerning the Marshal's office. 7.) What does the Marshal need a car for? Alderman Aldrich said to provide community police support – to patrol several days a week and for emergency event. 8.) During initial discussions, Mr. Bernard said the Marshal's office could be abolished...what laws is the Marshal going to enforce and how is he going to enforce them? The Mayor pointed out that this was getting away from the budget discussion and they needed to get back

on task. The Marshal's Office could be put onto a future agenda to be discussed at that time. Mr. Bernard finished by saying once an item was included in the budget; it becomes an open checkbook to spend that amount of money. He does not understand why the Marshal needs to have bullet proof vests in Weston Lakes or the need for a car. Alderman Owens reiterated again that the Council has not given final approval for anything in the Marshal's office yet but the funds needed to be designated in the event that approval is given.

Alderman Owens compared last year's budget to the current budget and said when the non-recurring revenue (the grants) is removed; we are in a favorable position; up about \$4,000. On the expense side, after removing the non-recurring expenses taking out those items paid for by the grants; those expenses are up about \$4,000. He would like to see it more in line with last year's budget. He would like to have another budget workshop.

A motion was made by Alderman Gary Owens to have another Budget Workshop and was seconded by Alderman Ted Case.

*AYES: Alderman Owens
Alderman DeLuca
Alderman Case*

*NAYS: Alderman Aldrich
Alderman Thomas*

The motion passed.

The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for SEPT 16, 2010 and the Budget Hearing will be SEPT 23, 2010
A motion was made by Alderman Cliff Aldrich to have the next Budget Workshop on Sept. 16, 2010 and the Budget Hearing on Sept. 23, 2010 and was seconded by Alderman Gary Owens. The motion passed.

4. Adjournment. *A motion was made by Alderman Trent Thomas to adjourn and was seconded by Alderman Gary Owens. The motion passed.*

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Attest:

Mary Rose Zdunkewicz
Mayor, City of Weston Lakes

Kathy Nida
City Secretary