

## CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

July 28, 2009

4:00 p.m.

The special meeting of the Junction City City Commission was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 with Mayor Terry Heldstab presiding.

The following members of the Commission were present: Terry Heldstab, Scott Johnson, Mike Rhodes, Ken Talley, and Jack Taylor. Staff present was: City Manager, Rod Barnes, Assistant City Manager Mike Guinn, and City Clerk Tricia Gowen.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mr. KC Goreham presented the 2010 proposed Highland Cemetery Budget presented to the Commission. The request for 2010 is in the amount of \$75,000. If the Highland Cemetery does not receive enough funding, the responsibility of operating the cemetery then falls on the City of Junction City.
- b. Police Chief Bob Story presented the 2010 Proposed Police Budget to the Commission.
- c. Steve Hoambrecker with Veolia Water presented an updated on Sanitation Rules & Regulations to the Commission. Mr. Hoambrecker reviewed the regulations and explained how his staff runs the sanitation routes.
- d. Discussion of proposed 2010 Budget presented by City Manager, Rod Barnes.
  1. The consideration and approval of proposed 2010 budget for publication in the Daily Union. Mr. Barnes informed the Commission that by regulation, a public hearing must be held ten days after publication of the budget. Mr. Barnes reviewed the proposed cuts for the 2010 budget which includes laying off six employees January 1, 2010. The mill levy for the presented budget is 48.251. Mayor Heldstab stated that he would like to see the Arts Council Director and three police officers remain in the 2010 budget and have the secretarial duties performed by volunteers. Commissioner Rhodes stated that he is very concerned about the layoff of employees; he believes that the City might be biting off more than we can handle. He appreciates Mr. Barnes' thinking outside the box; however, he concerned with the City's ability to continue to deliver services to the public with less staff. Commissioner Taylor stated that he has had citizens tell him that they do not want their taxes to increase. Therefore, he believes cuts as the ones proposed need to be done. Commissioner Johnson encouraged citizens to voice their opinions at the public hearing. Mr. Barnes stated that once the mil levy is published, the Commission can not increase the mill levy; they can only decrease from that amount. Commissioner Rhodes stated that he feels it is better to publish high so the Commission doesn't have to cut further. The max set tonight is only that – a maximum; the Commission can always decrease the mill levy. Commissioner Taylor stated that he was concerned that if the mill levy was set high, the Commission would find a way to spend the increase. Commissioner Talley stated that if an outside agency receives funding from the City, that agency should be required to report their financials and activities to the Commission on a monthly basis so they are transparent. Commissioner Taylor agreed with Commissioner Talley. He feels the boards should attend a monthly Commission meeting to answer questions. Commissioner Taylor stated that he agrees with Mayor Heldstab that three police officers and the Arts Council Director should be included in the 2010 budget. He feels the Opera House should pay for itself and be funded by the citizens who attend

functions. Commissioner Rhodes agreed with Commissioner Taylor, however, the Opera House needs to be funded until it can get on its own feet. Commissioner Taylor stated that he would rather have had comments from local citizens concerning the Arts Council; he said the majority of the comments he received were from out of town folks. Commissioner Rhodes stated that he would like to see the budget published at two mills higher than what has been proposed. Commissioner Talley stated that any increases in the budget come from the five Commissioners; not from the City staff or the City Manager. Commissioner Talley stated that his is concerned that the Commission is willing to fund outside agencies while laying off employees. He stated that he feels that by doing this, the Commission makes a stand that the outside agencies are more important than the positions. The staff presented a budget that the citizens requested. Commissioner Johnson wanted to know if a survey could be put in the water bills asking citizens how much they are willing to pay for City services.

Commissioner Rhodes moved, seconded by Mayor Heldstab to set the 2010 budget at 50.274 mills for the purpose of publication. Ayes: Heldstab, Rhodes. Nays: Johnson, Talley, Taylor. Motion failed two to three.

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to set the 2010 budget at 48.251 mills for the purpose of publication. Ayes: Johnson, Taylor. Nays: Heldstab, Rhodes, Talley. Motion failed two to three. Commissioner Rhodes stated that by setting the mill at this rate, the Commission does not leave any room for anything, even for items the public wants. Mayor Heldstab stated that he agrees with Commissioner Rhodes. At this rate, it is not possible to add officers. Commissioner Johnson stated that he thinks other items can be cut to accommodate items such as additional police officers. Commissioner Taylor stated that he agrees with Commissioner Johnson.

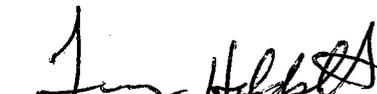
Commissioner Talley moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to set the 2010 budget at 49.268 mills for the purpose of publication. Ayes: Heldstab, Johnson, Talley, Taylor. Nays: Rhodes. Motion carried four to one.

## ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Talley moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Ayes: Heldstab, Johnson, Rhodes, Talley, Taylor. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2009 AS THE OFFICIAL COPY OF THE JUNCTION CITY CITY SPECIAL COMMISSION MINUTES FOR JULY 28, 2009.

  
Tricio Gowen, City Clerk

  
Terry Heldstab, Mayor