

**CITY OF LIBERTY WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**June 4, 2007 - 6:00 P.M.**  
**ROSEWOOD CENTER**  
**MINUTES**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Deese. Present were Council Members: Walt McJunkin, Lewis Wilson, Rick Clark, Brian Petersen and Mayor Deese.

Absent: CM Dwight Yates, Michael Sheriff

Others Present: Chief Miller, Chief Sargent, Barry Chappell, Code Enforcement Office, Dean Thomas

Mayor Deese welcomed everyone and the meeting started at precisely 6:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION: MILLAGE CAP/2<sup>nd</sup> READING ON 2007/2008 BUDGET ORDINANCE**

Mayor Deese stated the State has instituted a cap on municipalities raising their millage rate based upon growth and population. He explained that the City was capped at 4.3% which equates to about 3.3 mills. Mayor Deese stated we have a balanced budget and he was not advocating an increase in millage rates this year, but would like for council to discuss this since this does tie our hands in the future. CM Clark stated next year's millage increase would have to be used for sewer. Our new sewer pumping from Cramer over to Roper will come on line and we have to make a decision, do we want to increase our sewer bills, which are already high, or do we want to do like Central does and move part of our debt service into millage, so it is spread out more. CM Wilson stated so, we would raise the millage next year, but it would be already used, and anything that came up we would not have funds to cover it. CM Petersen stated Josie's figures showed that a mill was about \$9000 and we can only increase 3.3 this year. There was some discussion on how much that would be per household. CM McJunkin stated he was not in favor of raising the millage this year. CM Wilson asked when was the last time we increased millage and the Mayor responded 2 years ago. CM Petersen stated we minimized the impact on that millage increase that we could have brought. CM Wilson stated we could do that millage increase or increase fees. CM Petersen stated we were also being irresponsible to our citizens if we did not collect the funds required to operate the City. CM Clark stated that we were not raising millage just because of the cap, but because there is a project that would benefit our town that we can get behind. CM Petersen brought to council's attention the need to build the new fire department. He explained we have gained some land that we previously had lost due to inactivity and this land has a time cap as well. CM Wilson stated there would be many improvements made to the city if we had the funds; unfortunately, the city has not had the funds to make these improvements. CM Petersen explained to council the work that had gone into the USDA loan for the new fire station and if we do not go through with this loan now, we would have to start from scratch to obtain these funds. Through a diagram, CM Petersen explained the funds that are available to build the fire station with, such as the \$200,000 grant, how much the city would be paying back, and where the funds would come from. He stressed if the city failed to take this opportunity, we may not get another one where everything has come together so well. His proposal is to raise the millage 3.3 mills and dedicate the money for the next 7 to 10 years to paying off the new fire station. CM Clark stated his proposal was to dedicate the 3.3 mills for 7 years. He stated everything had come together perfectly at this time to move forward with this plan. Mayor Deese told council about his meeting with the county. CM McJunkin asked how long council had been planning to build a new fire station and why money was not already being put aside for this project. Mayor Deese explained that when the land was first available they

could not get the funds or grants to build the station. Mayor Deese stated if the grant fell through, the project would be dropped at this time. CM Petersen stated he would know this Thursday if we were to receive the grant. Mayor Deese stated that he and CM McJunkin had met with the department heads to go over the budget and asked if any councilmen had any questions on the budget. There were several questions asked and answered regarding the budget. CM Clark, after reviewing several parts of the budget, stated that he thought in the last ten years we have give 5% across the board raises, except one. Mayor Deese stated he had already told us in the staff meeting not to look for that next year and also not to look for the 25% health coverage for dependents on the insurance.

**DISCUSSION: APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MEETING/HEAD COUNT FOR DUKE ENERGY SPECIAL EVENT**

Mayor Deese collected a count for attendance at the Duke Energy Special Event on July 13, 2007. Also, he stated anyone wishing to attend the annual municipal association meeting, please let the Clerk know so she can fill out your registration form.

**DISCUSSION: ROSEWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER DESIGN COMMITTEE UPDATE**

CM Wilson informed council of the meeting he and CM Sheriff attended at the Rosewood Center with Brian Phillips, theatre specialist, and Jean Toole. CM Wilson stated Mr. Phillips knew exactly what could be done to improve the Rosewood Center for any and all stage productions. Mr. Phillips is going to coordinate everything with CM Sheriff and he will be making a recommendation to council for approval. CM Wilson stated after that approval, they would be deciding at that time what to do with the rest of the building.

**DISCUSSION: PEDESTRIAN PARK**

Mayor Deese stated he could not get an update on the Pedestrian Park since CM Sheriff was not present. CM Clark stated we needed to fix Front Street before we did the Pedestrian Park. Mayor Deese stated he would be calling Bob (DOT) to show him that problem and while he is fixing the sidewalk on 93, he could also fix the curbing on Front Street. CM Clark stated also the sidewalk in front of Walkers needed fixing.

**DISCUSSION: DOWNTOWN PARKING ORDINANCE**

Mayor Deese stated he and Chief Miller had discussed the amendment to the parking ordinance. Chief Miller stated basically they would be changing the hours from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the ordinance would give them permission to tow vehicles of repeat offenders. He explained he had ordered new signs reflecting this change. CM Wilson asked if we had gotten the No Parking signs for 178. Mayor Deese stated we have not gotten them yet, but they have been outsourced and we expect to get them in a respectable time. There was some discussion regarding the parking in front of Kannarney's to Nalley's.

Mayor Deese asked each councilman if he had anything he wanted to comment on. He stated Barry Chappell, Code Enforcement Officer, would be attending all work sessions from now on. So if council had anything to address regarding the code enforcement, Barry would be able to answer their concerns. He stated Barry would also be assisting Richard Davidson, Building Official. CM Wilson stated we need to have a system in place for Barry such as a complaint form to fill out. Barry stated complaints coming in were still going through the police department. The Clerk stated that when they come to her to complain, it is because they want to see the Mayor, not talk with Barry or fill out a complaint form. They just want to vent to the Mayor. Chief Miller stated they had used complaint forms in the past and they did not work. It was the

consensus of council that there needed to be some kind of record kept of complaints that were registered and a record of the action taken to remedy the complaint and a follow-up. CM McJunkin stated he thought it would be a good idea for a copy of the complaint to be given to the councilman whose ward the complaint came from. CM Petersen asked about the specs for the lawn maintenance around town. CM McJunkin stated it was the responsibility of the state highway department to keep the weeds cut along the highway. CM Petersen stated it would be great if they would do it, but they do not do it and it affects the image of Liberty. CM Wilson stated we need to work on the signs. The benches are being used as portable signs and we need to get rid of them and there are realtor signs on corners. People are putting signs at the intersection of 93 and 178 on the bank property. There was some discussion on Nalley's removing the green letters from the building facing the town square and the CVS portable sign. Chief Sargent presented council with information he had gathered regarding purchasing another siren. This situation was discussed by council and it was decided more research was needed including looking into putting a siren on top of the new fire station.

**Adjourn**

- CM Clark made motion to adjourn.
- CM Petersen seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor

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V. Sue Woods, Clerk

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Verification/Mayor

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Approval Date