



**CLARKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL SESSION  
JULY 2, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A special session of the Clarksville City Council was called to order by Mayor Kim McMillan on Thursday, July 2, 2015, at 5:05 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 106 Public Square, Clarksville, Tennessee.

A prayer was offered by Councilman Wallace Redd; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Mike Alexander.

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:** Richard Garrett (Ward 1), Deanna McLaughlin (Ward 2), Wallace Redd (Ward 4), Valerie Guzman (Ward 5), Wanda Smith (Ward 6), Geno Grubbs (Ward 7), Joel Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 9), Mike Alexander (Ward 10), Bill Powers (Ward 11), Jeff Burkhart (Ward 12)

**ABSENT:** James Lewis (Ward 3), David Allen (Ward 8)

**CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Lance Baker met with members of the City Council in a closed session at 5:10 p.m. Mr. Baker explained situations that could occur if a general government budget was not adopted. The regular session was reconvened at 5:58 p.m.

**FY16 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET**

**ORDINANCE 10-2015-16** (First Reading) Amending the FY15 Operating and Capital Budgets and adopting the FY16 Operating and Capital budgets for the City of Clarksville Governmental Funds and adopting the Tax Rate beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016

There was no objection to allowing Finance Director Laurie Matta to respond to questions from the Council.

Councilman Grubbs made a motion to adopt this ordinance on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wallace.

#### GENERAL WAGE INCREASE *(Amendment 1)*

Councilman Garrett made a motion to reduce the employee general wage increase from 3% to 1%. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McLaughlin. Councilman Grubbs said the current pay plan required two years of implementation. He said the proposed 3% increase was recommended to keep the employee pay competitive with the current market. Councilman Grubbs said the report submitted to the Human Resources Department by the pay consultant revealed that general employee pay was 8% below market and public safety pay was 10% below the market. Councilman Burkhart said all employees should be treated fairly. Councilman McLaughlin expressed her support for a merit based pay plan. Councilman Redd made a motion to table this amendment until the tax rate is determined. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Burkhart, Garrett, Guzman, McLaughlin, Redd, Smith

NAY: Alexander, Grubbs, Powers, Wallace

The motion to table this amendment passed.

#### MAYOR'S VEHICLE *(Amendment 2)*

Councilman Garrett made a motion to delete \$37,000 for a new vehicle. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Guzman. Councilman Garrett offered an amendment to specify that this deletion was for the Mayor's vehicle. The amendment was seconded by Councilwoman McLaughlin. A voice vote was taken; the amending motion passed. Mayor McMillan said the mayor pays a monthly lease fee and a portion of gas expense to the City. She said the vehicle was budgeted in case the Fleet Manager determined that the existing vehicle needed to be replaced. The following vote on the amendment was recorded:

AYE: Alexander, Burkhart, Garrett, Grubbs, Guzman, McLaughlin, McMillan, Powers, Redd, Smith, Wallace

The motion to delete the appropriation of the Mayor's vehicle passed.

## DEPARTMENT REDUCTIONS

In response to Councilwoman McLaughlin's question, Ms. Matta said some department operating budgets had been reduced in this budget, but the line items had not been specified.

### ADVERTISING *(Amendment 3)*

Councilwoman McLaughlin made a motion to delete \$55,000 from the Legislative Budget for advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Alexander, Burkhart, Garrett, McLaughlin, Powers, Redd, Smith

NAY: Grubbs, Guzman, McMillan, Wallace

The motion to delete \$55,000 for advertising passed.

### MAYOR'S FITNESS COUNCIL *(Amendment 4)*

Councilwoman McLaughlin made a motion to delete \$5,000 appropriated for the Mayor's Fitness Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander. Following discussion, Councilman Alexander called for the question. The question was seconded by Councilman Redd. A voice vote was taken; the motion to cease discussion passed. The following vote on the amendment was recorded:

AYE: Alexander, Burkhart, McLaughlin, Redd, Smith, Wallace

NAY: Grubbs, Guzman, McMillan, Powers

ABSTAIN: Garrett

The motion to delete \$5,000 for the Mayor's Fitness Council passed.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT FURNITURE *(Amendment 5)*

Councilwoman McLaughlin made a motion to delete \$10,500 for Fire Department furniture. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Alexander, Burkhart, Garrett, Guzman, McLaughlin, Redd, Smith

NAY: Grubbs, McMillan, Powers, Wallace

The motion to delete \$10,500 for Fire Department furniture passed.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS SPECIALIST *(Amendment 6)*

Councilman Alexander made a motion to delete \$54,535 for the I.T. Applications Specialist. The motion was seconded by Councilman Redd. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Alexander, Burkhart, Garrett, McLaughlin, Redd, Smith, Wallace

NAY: Grubbs, Guzman, McMillan, Powers

The motion to delete \$54,535 for the Applications Specialist passed.

## FIRE STATION 11 *(Amendment 7)*

Councilman Burkhart made a motion to delete Fire Station 11 (Exit 1), \$1,400,000, from the capital projects budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Redd. Ms. Matta said deleting a capital project would not affect the FY16 operating budget. The following vote was recorded after a lengthy discussion:

AYE: Alexander, Burkhart, Garrett, Guzman, Redd, Smith

NAY: Grubbs, McLaughlin, McMillan, Powers, Wallace

The motion to delete the Fire Station 11 capital project (\$1,400,000) passed.

## RECESS/REGULAR SESSION

The Council recessed at 7:36 p.m. to allow the Finance staff to calculate fund balances based on different tax rates. The regular session was conducted during this recess. The Council reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

## PROPERTY TAX RATE *(Amendment 8)*

Ms. Matta stated that based on current needs to provide necessary services to the public, maintaining the current property tax rate of \$1.1832 would be financially irresponsible. This tax rate would create a shortfall of \$5,000,000 for FY17. Ms. Matta recommended a minimal tax rate of \$1.28.

Councilman Burkhart made a motion to set the FY16 tax rate at \$1.1832. The motion was seconded by Councilman Redd. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Burkhart, Garrett, Guzman, McLaughlin, Redd, Smith

NAY: Alexander, Grubbs, McMillan, Powers, Wallace

The motion to set the property tax rate at \$1.1832 passed.

## CEASE DISCUSSION

Councilman Redd called for the question. The question was seconded by Councilwoman McLaughlin. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Burkhart, Guzman, McLaughlin, Redd, Smith, Wallace

NAY: Alexander, Garrett, Grubbs, McMillan, Powers

The motion to cease discussion failed due to lack of a 2/3 majority.

## PROPERTY TAX RATE (*Amendment 9*)

Councilman Alexander made a motion to set the property tax rate at \$1.24. The motion was seconded by Councilman Powers. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Alexander, Grubbs, Powers, Wallace

NAY: Burkhart, Garrett, Guzman, McLaughlin, Redd, Smith

The motion to set the tax rate at \$1.24 failed.

## CEASE DISCUSSION

Councilman Redd called for the question on the original motion. The question was seconded by Councilwoman McLaughlin. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Alexander, Burkhart, Garrett, Grubbs, Guzman, McLaughlin, Powers, Redd, Smith, Wallace

The motion to cease discussion on **ORDINANCE 10-2015-16** passed.

## ADOPTION OF FY16 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET

The following vote on the motion to adopt **ORDINANCE 10-2015-16** on first reading was recorded:

AYE: Burkhart, Garrett, Guzman, McLaughlin, Redd, Smith

NAY: Alexander, Grubbs, McMillan, Powers, Wallace

The motion to adopt the FY16 General Government Budget on first reading passed with the tax rate set at \$1.1832.

## FY16 CLARKSVILLE TRANSIT SYSTEM BUDGET

**ORDINANCE 71-2014-15** (Second Reading; Postponed June 29) Amending the FY15 Operating and Capital Budgets and adopting the FY16 Operating and Capital Budgets for Clarksville Transit System

Councilman Redd made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McLaughlin. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Burkhart, Garrett, Grubbs, Guzman, McLaughlin, McMillan, Powers, Smith, Wallace

NAY: Alexander, Redd

The motion to adopt the FY16 Clarksville Transit System Budget on second reading passed.

## FY16 GAS & WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET

**ORDINANCE 73-2014-15** (Second Reading; Postponed June 29) Amending the FY15 Operating and Capital Budgets and adopting the FY16 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Clarksville Gas & Water Department

Councilman Redd made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McLaughlin. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Burkhart, Garrett, Grubbs, Guzman, McLaughlin, McMillan, Powers, Redd, Smith, Wallace

NAY: Alexander

The motion to adopt the FY16 Gas & Water Department Budget on second reading passed.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.