

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Littleton held a special meeting Monday, June 21, 2010, at the Town Hall. Commissioners present were Patrick MacRae, Terry Newsom, Heidi Hogan, Clara Debnam and Jimmy Kearney. Citizens Present were Sylvia Alston, Alton "Buzzy" Parker, Larry West and Susan Shaw-Snow.

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and stated the special meeting was to hold two public hearing, and take care of any business pertaining to the hearings.

Mayor Willis opened the Public Hearing on the proposed 2010-11 Budget and explained the Board started meeting June 7 and met several times for hours and hours. The proposed budget for the General Fund was \$576,806 and was originally \$80,000+ shortfall. The proposed budget was based on a tax rate of \$0.65/\$100, up from \$0.61, cutting one police officer position and parking one police car and projected revenues are down.

In response to a question from Sylvia Alston, Mayor Willis explained the position to be cut was worked out by Commissioner Newsom and the Chief, who said he would cut his position since he was the highest paid officer. Commissioner MacRae advised Chief Suggs had volunteered. Commissioner Newsom stated they were \$80,000 short and had to make hard decisions and because the Chief is running for Sheriff he would be moved to a part time position. If possible, he would come back (full time). Discussion followed.

Mayor Willis advised the State wanted a Capital Improvement Plan in place for the Water/Sewer Department and this year there will be a \$5.00 per bill per month availability fee for the Capital Improvement Fund, to help with things like when the aerator broke down. Buzzy Parker asked if the funds would be reserve and was assured it would. Discussion followed.

Buzzy Parker asked about the two buildings and was told they were not in the budget. Mayor Willis explained the Library would be all Federal grants. The Town was already obligated on the Town Hall building but payments wouldn't begin until after all the work was done and would likely fall in the next budget year.

Ms Alston expressed empathy with those on a fixed income.

Larry West read a prepared statement concerning the budget and his contract with the Town for cemetery maintenance, which was reduced from \$13,800 to \$10,000. Mr. West stated he would have to reduce services and Mayor Willis advised he could give the job up if he felt he couldn't work with the Town. Commissioner MacRae stated the Board understood that and he would sit down with Mr. West and go over what could be done with the money available. Discussion that continued

The public hearing was closed at 5:32 pm.

Mayor Willis called a short recess before the next hearing.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing on a zoning text amendment and read the following notice that appeared twice in the Lake Gaston Gazette Observer:

Notice of Public Hearing
Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Littleton Board of Commissioners at the Town Hall on the 21st day of June, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., for the purpose of considering an amendment to the zoning ordinance. The proposed amendment is as follows:

Section 709 – replace “A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)” with “A fee, set by the Board of Commissioners and available in the Clerk’s Office,”

Interested parties are urged to be present for this meeting. Town Clerk

Mayor Willis read the proposed Zoning Ordinance Related Fees schedule and explained as the ordinance read now, only \$25.00 could be charged which didn’t even pay for adverting costs. The proposed fees were more in line with what other comparably sized towns charged. A short discussion followed.

There were no comments from citizens present. Mayor Willis closed the public hearing at 5:42 and the special meeting continued.

Commissioner MacRae made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kearney to adopt the proposed zoning text amendment. The motion was voted and carried.

Commissioner Newsom made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hogan, to adopt the Zoning Ordinance Related Fees schedule as presented. The motion was voted and carried. A copy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Debnam made a motion, seconded by Commissioner MacRae to adopt the **Budget Ordinance FY 2010-11 (O-10-001)**. The motion was voted and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Clerk