

TOWN OF BROOKLET  
JUNE 1, 2006  
PUBLIC HEARING  
BUDGET FYE2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russell Davis, Annette Wilson, Randy Newman, Sylvia Prosser, William Hendrix.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grooms and he asked for each department head to present their portion of the budget to Council. There was a sign in sheet for the public if they needed to speak.

COUNCILMAN DAVIS-SANITATION DEPARTMENT has a total budget of \$99,274.00. He gave a review of each line item. Councilwoman Wilson feels we need to discuss raises because right now the salaries look pretty good. Councilman Newman suggested a 4.5% salary increase. Councilwoman Prosser felt 4.0% increase would be enough. Councilman Hendrix advised he had figured his budget at 4.5%. Councilwoman Wilson asked if the salary amount included benefits if not, what the amount would be including their benefits. We need to know. Councilwoman Wilson figured one person's salary. The annual base pay of \$22,880.00 plus insurance and retirement the town pays equals \$31,869.00. Councilman Newman asked if she felt this was too much to pay an employee. Councilwoman Wilson thinks this is a good salary but does not think he should get a 4.5% raise and does not think anybody should get a 4.5% increase.

Councilman Newman asked what she would suggest the raise should be. She advised just the standard 2.5% according to the State of Georgia and the fact that she has worked all these years and hospitals did not give 5% raises. There was more discussion and input from the public on this matter.

Chief Mincey advised that if the town wanted to keep employees, they need to take care of them. The employees are loyal and work hard and the Police Department has become a training ground because of the low salaries.

Mayor Grooms asked that we move on to the next section of the Budget and follow up on salaries at the end. Councilwoman Prosser asked to speak before moving on. She does not have a problem with going from 4.0% to 4.5% raise, we have contingencies in each section and it looks like we have everything covered without contingencies. Councilman Hendrix noted that in sanitation it has come down \$6,000.00 this year and nothing was used in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Councilwoman Prosser knows it is there in case of emergency situation but we look at this account and see the money is there and we spend it. She feels the Town of Brooklet is spending too much money. Councilman Newman asked where we spent too much money. Councilwoman Prosser feels we spent too much money on this building (the new City Hall). There was discussion concerning the building being paid for with SPLOST money.

COUNCILMAN NEWMAN- STREETS DEPARTMENT had a total budget of \$239,936.00. Reviewing each line item: he has increased the salaries by 4.5% but has cut his total budget by \$6,400.00 making the final amount -\$233,536.00.

BELLE GAY was asked to present the ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT. Each line item was reviewed with a total budget of \$200, 00.00 compared to last year's budget of \$211,135.00. Mayor Grooms read from his notes Belle Gay requesting no increase in salaries except for Sue who has been here for seven months and her rate should increase after 6 months to \$8.60 per hr.

COUNCILWOMAN PROSSER-POLICE DEPARTMENT has total budget of \$267,690.00. She gave a review of each line item. Chief Mincey asked if there were any questions on the budget. Charles Mallard asked about the improvements on the Police Department Building. This will be covered under the Administrative Building Repairs account.

COUNCILMAN HENDRIX- WATER DEPARTMENT has a total budget of \$173,360.00. He gave a review of each line item. SPLOST Revenue budgeted for year 2007 was \$40,000.00. Charles Mallard asked if transfers to General Fund #61.1100 on the Water Department Budget should match the figure on Operating Transfers- Water #39.1100- in the General Fund Account. The 39.1100 number is a revenue account in the General Fund and the 61.1100 is a disbursement account in the Water Fund. Sometimes the General Fund borrows money from the Water Fund by using these account numbers. CHIEF MINCEY asked to address Council. He is concerned about his officers' time and overtime. He discussed going to hourly wages in order for them to be properly compensated. Average hours between the three guys are 56.64 per week. He recommends we base it on their salary at 40 hours per week. Councilman Newman asked how other departments handled their pay. Chief Mincey advised they pay for time plus overtime at time and a half. Chief Mincey advised Council that they had been very supportive of the department and he has appreciated their help.

COUNCILMAN NEWMAN made a motion to approve a 4.5% raise across the board for all employees. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all ayes. Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Newman seconded by Councilman Davis and passed with all ayes.