

**TOWN OF BATESBURG-LEESVILLE  
AGENDA  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 21, 2014  
6:00 P.M.  
BATESBURG FIRE STATION  
537 W. CHURCH STREET  
BATESBURG DISTRICT**

- I           CALL TO ORDER**
- II           INVOCATION**
- III          RESOLUTION - *PEACHTREE 23 YARD SALE***
- IV          2014/2015 BUDGET**
- IV          ADJOURNMENT**

*In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified of the time, date, and place along with a copy of the agenda of this meeting and a notice was posted on the front door of the Batesburg-Leesville Town Hall no later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.*

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 21, 2014

The Special Council Meeting for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville, which was held in the Batesburg District Fire Station located at 537 W. Church Street, was delayed for the lack of a quorum at 6:00 P. M. and decided to wait ten (10) minutes to see if a quorum would be present to hold the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins called the meeting to order at 6:07 P. M. Members present were Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins, Council Member O'Dell and Mingo. Council Member Penick arrived at 6:04 P. M. and Council Member Cain arrived at 6:07 P. M. Mayor Crapps and Council Members Taylor, Ricard and Fox were absent.

## INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins.

## RESOLUTION

***Peachtree 23 Yard Sale Resolution*** was read into the record by Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins. A motion was made by Council Member O'Dell with a second by Council Member Penick to adopt. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:        5 Approved                      0 Denied

## 2014/2015 BUDGET

A motion was made by Council Member Mingo with a second by Council Member Penick to place the 2014/2015 Budget on the floor for discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins read into the record statements from Mayor Crapps and Council Member Taylor, District 1 (attached).

Manager Taylor stated we need to know from Council how to move forward because we cannot hold a public hearing without figures in hand. What we need to know is do we stay with a balanced budget with no capital line items or do we look at the possibility of increasing the millage rate so we can do some of the capital line items that

**2014/2015 BUDGET CONT'D.**

are needed. Manager Taylor stated that Mr. Luckadoo has a presentation he would like to do before we entertain any questions.

Mr. Luckadoo stated his presentation is focused on just the millage part of the budget. The capital and other needs (copy attached) were discussed and Mr. Luckadoo stated one thing that was not put on this was any type of cost of living raise for the staff. He continued with his presentation stating the Town's costs have continued to go up and we have made no movement towards increasing revenue. He stated our costs will continue to go up and if we continue at this rate without increasing taxes we are going to start jeopardizing our services. He discussed the previous three (3) years CPI + growth and how much revenue each would generate. Also discussed was the millage increase on property and vehicle tax starting at 90.051(present millage) - 99.335 mils (copies attached). Discussion was held by Council on the tax millage increase, departmental expenses, Town growth, sales tax as opposed to property tax.

Mr. Luckadoo stated if the increase went to 99.335, generating \$139,220, we could get everything we need this year (copy attached) and a 2% cost of living for the employees. If we do this list what would next year hold; of the \$139,000, \$135,000 is reoccurring.

- This means only \$3,900 remains available for next year to be used for non-reoccurring costs
- This year we can utilize \$40,000 in un-earmarked funds that are in the Town's savings account
- We can also utilize \$68,100 from the Town checking account as part of the surplus funds to assist in capital purchases this year.

Discussion was held on placing the tax increase on the November ballot.

The Department of Public Works Budget was discussed.

Manager Taylor stressed the importance of having a balanced budget in place by June 30th.

**2014/2015 BUDGET CONT'D.**

Council Member O'Dell made a motion to instruct Town staff to present Council a balanced budget increasing taxes by 9.96% and present that to Council as first reading next week with a second by Council Member Penick. Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins stated there is already a motion on the floor for discussion of the budget and this needs to be dealt with first, we need to end that discussion. Further discussion was held on the budget. The motion and second failed due to no vote. Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins stated Council could either approve the budget tonight as presented or we have the option to raise taxes and try to deal with some of the weaknesses that are in the budget that need to be taken care of which have been neglected over the last 8-12 years.

Manager Taylor stated we need to know as a staff which direction we need to go. We have to have a public hearing on the budget and we have to put it in the paper 15 days prior to the meeting. We have to have the figures we are using in order to put them in the paper; we can't just say we are going to have a public hearing on the budget. We physically have to have the numbers of the budget in order to let the citizens know whether there is an increase, decrease or whatever. We can't put it in the paper until we have the direction of Council. Once we are given direction we have to put it in the paper and be advertised for 15 days before the public hearing. After we have that, if we have a first reading at our next Regular Council Meeting on June 9th, we can't have a public hearing at our next Council meeting because it is not 15 days prior to, so that means if Council decides to have a first reading on June 9th then the public hearing would come the next week and you have a second reading or if you don't want to have that first reading at the Regular Council Meeting then you can have the public hearing the next week after the Regular Council Meeting and have a first reading; you have to meet that next week to get the second reading. We are mandated by State law to have the budget in place by July 1st. We are running short on time and we need direction from Council. The public hearing notice has to have the figures as they appear in the budget. Further discussion was held. Mr. Luckadoo stated a balanced budget has already been presented and a second balanced budget can be presented that includes the increase with the capital items mentioned. Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins asked if there were any other discussion on the budget. Council Member Mingo made a motion to bring the budget discussion to a close with a second by Council Member Penick. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:           5 Approved                   0 Denied



Special Council Meeting  
May 21, 2014  
Page 5

**2014/2015 BUDGET CONT'D.**

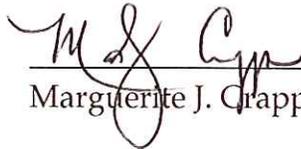
Mayor Pro Tem Simpkins stated the Manager informed him they could bring two (2) balanced budgets back next week for additional discussion and we can decide next Wednesday.

Council Member Cain made a motion that we accept the proposed balanced budget as presented by staff to also include any additions (+) or subtractions (-) from the Aid to Subdivision seconded by Council Member Mingo. After discussion, Council Member Cain withdrew his motion making it null and void.

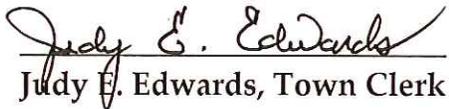
Council Member Cain amended his motion to accept the proposed balanced budget plus a 5% tax increase. The motion died for lack of support.

Council Member Cain left at 8:48 P. M. causing the meeting to end due to a lack of a quorum.

**Approved this 9th day of June 2014.**

  
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Marguerite J. Crapps, Mayor

**ATTEST**

  
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Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk