

**TOWN OF BATESBURG-LEESVILLE
AGENDA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 2, 2014
6:00 P.M.
COURTROOM
PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX
660 West Columbia Avenue**

- I CALL TO ORDER**

- II INVOCATION**

- III 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

JUNE 2, 2014

The Special Council Meeting for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville, held in the courtroom of the Batesburg-Leesville Judicial Complex, was called to order by Mayor Crapps at 6:00 P. M. Members present were Mayor Crapps, Council Members Taylor, O'Dell, Simpkins, Penick, Ricard and Fox. Council Member Cain was absent. Council Member Mingo arrived at 6:03 P. M.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Council Member Simpkins.

Council Member Mingo arrived before Mr. Luckadoo started his presentation.

2014/2015 BUDGET

Mayor Crapps stated we are here to take a look at the budget for this coming fiscal year. After several Council Work Sessions we have been presented with a couple of proposals; a balanced budget with a zero increase and a balanced budget with a 9.96% increase.

Manager Taylor stated Council instructed the staff at the last meeting after we had the balanced budget with no tax increase to come back and look at what the full millage rate would give us including the capital items. This is the presentation Ted will present tonight. Council will have two proposed balanced budgets; one with no increase and one with a 9.96% increase with capital items. What we need for Council to do is vote to instruct us which way to move. It needs to go in the paper this week in order for us to have 15 days for public notice before we can have a public hearing on the budget. Mayor Crapps stated State law mandates a balanced budget has to be in place by July 1.

Mr. Luckadoo stated we did receive the growth portion which we did not previously have; it was 1.46% and with the growth it went to 1.70% for this year. If the full tax increase is done it would go to 99.5 mills. Ted gave an comparison of the tax at the present rate versus the full tax increase on different home values. (copy attached) With the full tax increase capitals that can be purchased:

2014/2015 BUDGET CONT'D.

- 2 police cars - \$58,900
- Street sweeper - \$24,000 annual (7 year lease-purchase)
- Medium duty backhoe/loader - \$67,000 (state contract)
- New Town website - \$10,000
- Code Enforcement officer - Approximately \$45,000 (includes salary, fringe benefits, upfront supplies, uniforms, etc.)
- Extrication RAM (Fire Department) - \$2,500
- 2% cost of living raise for employees - \$43,600 (**Excludes** those making \$50,000 or more)

The Town's property tax revenue would go to \$1,255,463 and the vehicle tax would go to \$143,105. Depending on which direction Council tells us to go tonight, we will reprint all of these with the exact number so when first reading is held Council will have what the exact budget will be. The money coming to the Town from the Department of Public Works was reduced from \$85,802 to \$70,581. The reason for that was in order to do the cost of living for the DPW we had to lower their contribution to the Town in order to free that money up to give them a raise. As we stated at the last work session, this one year we can pull from the funds that have not been earmarked in the Town's savings account and use them for one-time capital purchases. The position of a Code Enforcement Officer was discussed in length. Council Member Mingo stated this was a position we don't need. She stated we just discussed last week if we do all those things on the table now and pass this budget and don't even have a cushion we will go bankrupt. She further stated we need to find a building inspector who inspects and also enforces. Council Member Penick stated as was discussed in a previous meeting if the code enforcement officer did his job then the revenue from fines and fees should offset his position. Mayor Crapps stated it is not up to Council to say they can or cannot hire people; the position was here when Randy Fellers was with the Town. The position is already there, a new position is not being created but funded with the budget increase.

Discussion was held on cutting departmental expenditures. Council Member Mingo stated is it not that this Town is almost broke. Mayor Crapps stated no one has stated the Town is almost broke. Mr. Luckadoo stated our revenues are continuing to go down and our expenses are continuing to go up and if we don't do something to

Special Council Meeting
June 2, 2014
Page 4

ADJOURNMENT

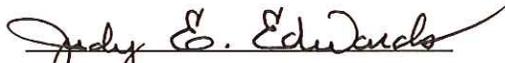
A motion was made by Council Member Mingo with a second by Council Member Fox to adjourn at 6:53 P. M. All members present were in favor.

Approved this 9th day of June 2014.



Marguerite J. Crapps, Mayor

ATTEST:



Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk