

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CALLED MEETING
JUNE 12, 2018

The Jackson, Tennessee, City Council met in a special public session on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. in the George A. Smith Meeting Room at City Hall with Mayor Jerry Gist and Councilmembers Charles “Pepper” Bray; Ernest Brooks II; David Cisco; Johnny Dodd; Vicky Foote; Ross Priddy; Charles Rahm; and Randy Wallace present. Councilmember Harvey Buchanan was not present. Also present was Anita Brooks, recorder of the minutes.

Mayor Gist gave the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the City’s 2018-2019 fiscal year operating and capital budget ordinance and property tax rate ordinance.

Mayor Gist stated that the Madison County Property Assessor’s office did a re-assessment of all property located in Jackson and Madison County this past year. Mayor Gist further stated that the 2018-2019 fiscal year operating and capital budget presented before the City Council is predicated upon the City’s existing tax rate and if the City Council elects to have a different property tax rate, City staff members will amend the budget to reflect the change. Mayor Gist then called upon Alan Laffoon, City Recorder, to give an overview of the proposed 2018-2019 fiscal year operating and capital budget.

Mr. Laffoon explained how the proposed 2018-2019 fiscal year operating and capital budget was calculated and gave a general overview of the General Fund, Debt Service, Revenue, and other Miscellaneous Funds for the City of Jackson. Mr.

Laffoon re-emphasized that City property tax assessments have gone up and advised that the proposed budget includes the following property tax rate proposals for the City Council to consider: (1) Reduce the property tax rate from \$1.96 per \$100 of assessed valuation to either \$1.85 or \$1.87 per \$100 of assessed valuation, maintaining property taxes at the same level as last year; or (2) Keep the existing tax rate of \$1.96 per \$100 of assessed valuation which will allow the City to establish a funding reserve for capital projects. Mr. Laffoon then gave a report on the City's portion of the local option sales tax and on the City's General Fund Revenues, Less Expenses, for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and answered questions. Councilmembers Cisco and Brooks requested that Mr. Laffoon provide the City Council with a spreadsheet of the City's sales tax revenues. Councilmember Wallace requested that Mr. Laffoon provide the City Council with a spreadsheet on the Sportsplex General Obligation Debt.

Jackson Police Chief Julian Wiser and Deputy Chief Barry Michael gave a presentation on their operating and capital budget proposals and answered questions from City Councilmembers.

The meeting was recessed at 9:35 a.m. and called back to order at 9:50 a.m.

The following City Department heads gave summaries of their budget proposals and answered questions from City Councilmembers:

- Jackson Fire Chief Maxie Stewart, with Captain David Thompson and David Dorris, director of Fire Training;
- Central Dispatch Director LaNonda Jernigan;
- Health and Sanitation Director Kathleen Huneycutt and Harry Henry, director of the Animal Care Center;
- City Planner Stan Pilant;
- City Engineer Scott Chandler; and
- Recreation and Parks Director Tony Black

Mayor Gist commended the department heads for their efforts in putting the budget together. Councilmember Dodd expressed appreciation to Chief Wisner and his officers for their community relationship with citizens. Councilmember Dodd also expressed appreciation to the Street Department staff for their efforts in repairing street potholes.

Councilmember Foote gave the Parks and Recreation Director a verbal list of citizens' concerns at Malesus Park. Councilmember Foote also stated that the Stella Duncan Park in Bemis could use a facelift.

Mayor Gist opened the public hearing on an Ordinance to establish the City's fiscal year 2018-2019 Operating and Capital Budget and asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in opposition to or in support of the passage of the ordinance. There being no one present to speak in opposition to or in support of the ordinance, Mayor Gist declared the public hearing closed. On the motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Dodd, the ordinance was unanimously approved on first reading with the understanding that there may be a few changes made to it before second reading.

Mayor Gist opened the public hearing on an Ordinance to establish the City's property tax rate and asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in opposition to or in support of the passage of the ordinance. There being no one present to speak in opposition to or in support of the ordinance, Mayor Gist declared the public hearing closed. On the motion of Councilmember Dodd, seconded by Councilmember Wallace, an ordinance to set the City's property tax rate at \$1.96 per one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation for fiscal year 2018-2019 was

approved 6-1-1 on first reading, with Councilmembers Bray, Dodd, Foote, Priddy, Rahm and Wallace voting yea, Councilmember Cisco voting nay and Councilmember Brooks abstaining.

Councilmember Foote requested a one-time allocation of approximately \$1,000 for the Bemis Museum and Councilmember Brooks requested funding in the amount of \$2,500 for the West Madison Senior Center to be included in the City's 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. Both agencies have received funding from the City of Jackson in the past. Mayor Gist stated that funding through the City's Community Relations budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 can provide financial assistance to the Bemis Museum and the West Madison Senior Center. Mr. Laffoon stated that Mayor Gist also has a \$100,000 discretionary fund that can be used for funding these non-profit agencies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

JERRY GIST, MAYOR