

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 26, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Slagle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ray Smith, Bonnie Bradley, Dorothy Slagle, Jesse Garrett Cris Haynes and Debbie Gaskin.

STAFF/GUESTS

Staff - Raena Hallam and John Ridlington.

Guests - Lu Haynes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

As there were no Announcements or Mail Received, City Council moved on to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Lu Haynes said she would like to see an article in the local newspaper each week to update citizens of issues in the community.

NEW BUSINESS

As there was no New Business, City Council moved on to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

2014 BUDGET

PROPERTY TAX ORDINANCE NO. 1723

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the Statesman Examiner newspaper notified her the budget public hearing notice for this evening was not published. Therefore, the City Council will need to hold a public hearing on December 3rd and December 17th to meet the public notification requirements.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam also stated after the November 19th City Council meeting there were still questions about the 1% property tax levy adopted by ordinance. Raena stated she wanted to make sure everyone understood that yes the 1% is an increase for property owners. However, how much of an increase depends on the average valuation of property in the City of Kettle Falls and how much an individual's property is above or below that median. Raena reviewed an example handout with City Council.

Council Member Cris Haynes stated she did not want to increase any taxes and would have voted differently if she had understood property taxes would increase.

Council Member Cris Haynes made a motion to rescind Property Tax Ordinance No. 1723. Council Member Ray Smith seconded the motion.

Discussion:

John Ridlington stated the 1% is helpful to the General Fund. A lot of people use city services and every little bit helps. John suggested the City come up with ways to entice annexation.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member Ray Smith - no, Council Member Bonnie Bradley -no, Council Member Jesse Garrett - no, Council Member Cris Haynes - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - no. Motion Failed.

POLICE BUDGET

Council Member Cris Haynes stated she is very concerned about the Police Department budget and thinks there needs to be a lot more oversight. Cris handed out a newspaper article about the purchase of a gun that was involved in a shooting incident in Suncrest years ago. Cris further stated she would like the Police Chief to receive Council permission prior to any purchases from the 2014 budget.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam explained the City Council is in charge of the budget, but the Mayor is in charge of personnel. Department Heads are required to stay within the guidelines of the budget adopted by the City Council, and purchases are made within the guidelines the Mayor sets forth for staff. Raena further stated if one Department Head is required to come before Council prior to any purchases all Department Heads should be required to. Raena further stated if staff is not allowed some flexibility or trusted to have the responsibility of their individual budgets, then it would be impossible to perform their jobs efficiently.

Council Member Cris Haynes stated she doesn't want the Police Department to purchase Bullet proof vests or shields as requested in the 2014 budget proposal. Cris stated she doesn't want the Kettle Falls Police Department to be seen in the public wearing military type gear. It is not good for citizen relations. Cris further stated she would also like oversight of any purchases from the military surplus program.

No other discussion was presented by the Mayor or other City Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Dorothy Slagle adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Approved:

Mayor Dorothy Slagle

Attest:

Raena L. Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer