

MINUTES
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2005
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: MAYOR PRO TEM JOE SWEET, PRESIDING

ALDERMEN: ROSLYN PALMER, MARK HARRELL, LUTHER CONYERS,
ROLFE HUNT

OTHERS: CITY MANAGER CHRIS HOBBY, DIRECTOR OF
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION LISA BRYANT

GUESTS: LARRY FUNDERBURKE, DENNIS MOCK, AL KELLEY,
AMANDA GLOVER, BEVERLY ALLEN, RONNIE
PARISH, TOMMY KING, AND BRANNAN LEATHERS

ABSENT: MAYOR B.K. REYNOLDS AND GREG WADDELL

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Sweet called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the call to order, Alderman Luther Conyers gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

City Manager Hobby presented the Mayor and Council with the 2005-2006 proposed operating budgets. City Manager Hobby advised the Mayor and Council that the budget was balanced. City Manager Hobby went through each of the operating division's proposed budgets outlining capital outlays, proposed new positions and the total budget for each department. The budget that is spread out over the following pages represents management's estimate of the funds needed to sustain the program of work and operation of the City of Bainbridge during the up-coming fiscal year. This document is the result of the collaborative effort involving the city's Division Directors, Department Managers and employees. City Manager Hobby expressed his gratitude to the Accounting Manager, Beverly Allen for stepping in at a difficult time, assisting him with the budget process. Also, he welcomed Lisa Bryant, Director of General Administration/Finance Director.

In keeping with the long-time philosophy of the city, we have utilized a conservative budgeting approach. General Fund revenues are projected to increase 5.65% over last year primarily due to a projected increase in Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) receipts. General Fund expenditures are projected to increase 6.5% over the previous period. The proposed budget assumes that the ad valorem tax rate will be rolled back from the current rate of 3.281 to a new rate of 3.278. If Mayor and Council approve this will be the 4th year the city has rolled back the taxes. Also, the city's ISO survey is complete. If the city wants to drop its current rating from a 4 to a 3, the city would need to purchase a ladder truck, utility truck and make some modifications to the Fire Department. These

expenditures would cost approximately \$750,000. We would need to discuss during the FY 07 budget. Alderman Luther Conyers, Jr. asked what structures the city has that would need the capability of a ladder truck. City Manager Hobby said the city has 11 structures according to the survey that rate for a ladder truck. Overall, the city's budget, including all funds and financing sources, will increase 3.12% or roughly equal to the rate of inflation under this proposed budget.

The program of work for the next year is quite aggressive. If authorized, this budget appropriates funds for over 4.6 million dollars in capital projects. This includes the completion of the Clay Street Drainage project, gas rehabilitation, street paving, upgrade two storm water holding ponds, the construction of a marina, the continuation of the downtown streetscape program and recreation projects. Some of the projects are utilizing SPLOST funds. City Manager Hobby explained when all of these projects are complete; the city would have approximately \$700,000 left in SPLOST funds. He explained the SPLOST funds would need to accumulate to do large projects. Alderman Harrell made a statement that due to the city doing large projects this year and the large amount of money expected to be spent in the FY 05-06 budget for projects, the city would need to accumulate more funds to do more large projects.

This budget also includes funding for the acquisition of several large pieces of equipment. This budget assumes that these purchases will be accomplished utilizing the Georgia Municipal Association Capital Lease Program. This will result in the city issuing \$344,000 in short term (three years) debt. The current lease rate is 3.82%. It has been a longtime practice of the city to utilize the GMA program; however we have not used this financing source in approximately four years.

This budget includes a 3.0% Cost of Living Adjustment to the city's pay plan. In addition, we are recommending that the funds be appropriated to allow for up to a three-step pay plan increase for the city's most deserving employees as measured by job performance.

Costs related to personnel salaries and benefits continue to account for a large portion of the city's budget. In fact, as a percentage of the operating budget, Personal Services and Employee Benefits account for 46% of the total budget. In the proposed budget you will notice that several changes have been made to city staffing levels. The overall effect is that the city will have three fewer budgeted positions in FY 06 than it had in FY 05. The only new position included in this budget is within the Computer Information Systems Department where we have included funds to provide for a staffed position. The Utilities Division is losing three funded positions, two within the Gas Department and one within the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The elimination of these positions will not result in any employee lay-offs in that the reductions have been accomplished through attrition. With the advent of new and better monitoring technologies we believe that the staffing of the treatment plant on a 24 hour basis is no long necessary and we plan to further decrease our staff levels at this facility as personnel retire or leave. Alderman Luther Conyers asked how the city would be affected at 1:30 in the morning. City Manger Hobby said the city would not be affected, because the response time would be the same, because if a person was on duty, they would have to call for help. Director of Utilities, Ronnie Parish agreed. All other staffing changes are explained by the moving of personnel within a division to insure maximum productivity.

City Manager Hobby said it is certainly his honor to serve the Bainbridge as City Manager. He has never worked with a finer group of employees. From the Division Director level to the city's hard working hourly employees he continues to be impressed by the amount and quality of work that we are able to accomplish. This work would be impossible without adequate funding and support from the city's elected leadership. We look forward to your reaction to the FY 06 proposed budget and welcome your questions and comments.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Sweet thanked City Manager Hobby for his hard work and dedication.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Sweet adjourned the meeting.

BY: _____
JOE SWEET, MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST: _____
LISA BRYANT, CITY CLERK