

The Budget Public Hearing of September 16, 2014 was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

MAYOR

Ron Reinhard

COUNCILMEMBERS

Don Nettle

Jennifer Nottingham

Mitch Thornton

Lynn Tiner

Jeff Waldrop

OTHERS

Shannan Kinsley

Chief David Bejar

Bruce Houston

Shane Reddout

Ed Scharf

Lou Hoffman

Murry Hughey

Marjorie Mautz

Matt Vyverman

Andy Vyverman

James Henry Frazar

Joni Simon

Mayor Reinhard declared a quorum with Councilmember Nettle, Councilmember Nottingham, Councilmember Thornton and Councilmember Tiner present. He stated Councilmember Waldrop had something come up last minute but he would still try to make the meeting late.

1. PRESENT THE PROPOSED 2014/2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GREY FOREST, DISCUSS AND GIVE ALL INTERESTED PARTIES THE RIGHT TO APPEAR AND BE HEARD ON THE 2014/2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GREY FOREST

Mayor Reinhard stated the Public Hearing is a public forum to allow all interested parties an opportunity to discuss the budget. He stated no one signed up to speak but he will give interested parties the opportunity to speak during the presentation if there are any questions, concerns or comments. Mayor Reinhard stated he would like to give a high level presentation on how they came up with the numbers presented today. He stated the budget process started in the May/June timeframe. He looked at the current budget and had to project where we'll be at year end. He pulled the last 5 years and looked for trends. An analysis was done and a preliminary budget was prepared. They had two Budget Workshops. The preliminary numbers were discussed and adjustments were made. The budget was officially submitted to the City Secretary on August 19th. It was posted on the City website and he hopes everyone has had a chance to review it. Mayor Reinhard stated City Council has tried to be responsible and thoughtful on how they spend money. Mayor Reinhard stated we are required to provide a Budget Cover Page that breaks down the property taxes and gives a comparison from the previous year. The City has not raised property taxes in several years. You are required to approve the budget before the property tax rate is adopted. Mayor Reinhard reviewed the City Operations Income. He stated the biggest revenue for the City is from GFU. We are scheduled to receive a 5% increase each year. This will be the last year to make payment on the water bond. Matt Vyverman stated he thinks the water income should be broken down separately. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Administration Expenses. He stated employees received a 2.5% increase. Matt Vyverman asked if employees receive work performances. Mayor Reinhard stated we currently do not have anything in place but a policy manual is something he plans to work on this year. He stated he has a soft copy of GFU's policy but would like to make it City specific. It was Councils consensus that a policy manual is something that needs to be worked on. Matt Vyverman stated he opposes the City Secretary's raise with no performance review. Lou Hoffman stated he's having a hard time seeing the increases. He thought during past budgets, the proposed numbers and the previous year's numbers were shown so they could see the increases themselves. Lou Hoffman stated he feels they should recess the meeting and give citizens time to compare that information. Mayor Reinhard stated two Budget Workshops were held which was open to the public and those numbers were reviewed. Councilmember Nottingham asked if they could recess the meeting and make citizens a copy of what was handed out in the workshops.

Mayor Reinhard called for a short recess at 6:52 p.m. The Budget Public Hearing was reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Reinhard provided the audience a copy of the 5 year budget analysis that was reviewed at the Budget Workshops. He stated the numbers on the analysis do not match was presented this evening. They are not in the same order as presented this evening. He would like to make it very clear that the analysis was the original working papers and numbers have gone up/down as discussed in two Budget Workshops. Mayor Reinhard gave citizens a brief period to

review the analysis. He stated if there are any questions as they go along, he will give them a chance to address. Lou Hoffman stated he doesn't see a separate line item for time the Police and Public Works put in at Madla Park. Mayor Reinhard stated there isn't a system set up to track the exact time. Lou Hoffman stated he thinks it should be clearly broken down. Mayor Reinhard stated they can consider breaking it out next time but can't make any promises. There was lengthy discussion on breaking down the time that Police/Public Works spend at the Madla Park. There was further discussion that the City has been quoted saying they won't use City money for the Madla Park but is using City employees to monitor and maintain it. Councilmember Nottingham stated the Madla Board of Directors is working on fundraisers and their intent is to not use the money that Council put in the budget. Council determined to put the money in the budget just in case but the intent is to not use it. They want the Madla Park to be self sufficient. Councilmember Waldrop joined the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m. There was further discussion on the park being purchased through grant funds. Lou Hoffman stated there are things that could be done for parks inside our community. Lou Hoffman stated there's been no increase in the garbage contract but if you look at the increase in Public Safety Police and Fire, it speaks for itself. There was a lengthy discussion on Police vehicles and having 24/7 coverage. There was discussion on increasing Police coverage and the current position of a Part-Time Officer being increased to a full-time position. Matt Vyverman stated he understands there is no longer a Council liaison with employees. There was discussion on who supervises employees. Matt Vyverman stated he opposes a salary increase for the Police Chief with no performance evaluation. Matt Vyverman stated it's apparent that this is cut and dry. That they already have their numbers and it doesn't matter what the public has to say. Mayor Reinhard stated Council is interested in what the public has to say. It's not cut and dry. If you look at the comparisons, you will see there have been many changes. Mayor Reinhard stated as discussed in the workshops, they plan to use money out of the road repair fund to contract with an engineer for an analysis of the roads. He would like to make plans for the following year when the City no longer has the bond payment. He would like to set up a subcommittee to look at engineering groups. There was a lengthy discussion on plans for the roads. There was discussion on the City seeking assistance for road repair through Bexar County. There was discussion on Scenic Loop Road deteriorating because of the large trucks. There was discussion on the City exhausting all possibilities to stop the large trucks from going down Scenic Loop Road. Mayor Reinhard stated he would like to give citizens who haven't spoken the opportunity to speak. Ed Scharf stated the City is in its current position today because of Jack Nottingham. He stated Jack Nottingham did this through blood and sweat. Jack Nottingham put together the gas company and then the water company. Before that it was the Fire Department and then the Police Department. Where's Jack's monument and picture on the wall. Think of what he has left us. Ed Scharf stated he would like the City to spare the time to put something up of Jack Nottingham's legacy and in his memory. Murry Hughey stated the park is outside the City limits and does nothing for him. He stated citizens should have had a chance to vote if they wanted to own the park. He didn't get a vote and had no representation. Mayor Reinhard stated they are open meetings and citizens have a chance to come to any meeting and discuss their concerns. Murry Hughey stated as for the payout of the prior Police Chief's comp time, he knows for a fact that some of his comp time was used for time where he has no clue what he was doing here. Marjorie Mautz stated even around our homes, you don't hear the positives. You hear the negatives and even when positives are said, you don't necessarily hear them. Shane Reddout stated as a citizen and taxpayer, he would like the Fire Department to receive more money. He has been in this community for a long time and has probably touched every Councilmember or their families through that department. Shane Reddout stated he would like to see Council look at the budget and find the money to fund another Fire Fighter/Paramedic for across the street. They need additional funds for man power. Councilmember Waldrop stated he would like to see what it would take to pull together a workshop and get a concrete proposal in black/white to see what it would take to get the Fire Department where they want to be. They've had workshops in the past but would like to have a long range plan with a goal of where we both eventually want to be. Councilmember Nettle stated he would like to get something concrete on what it would cost to get the same level of service for Grey Forest without ESD money. Shane Reddout stated he wants to be proactive and not reactive. He wants to make sure they have the personnel to man both stations when the new one eventually opens. Shane Reddout stated he is looking at the Fire Department doing an even better service than what is already provided and is asking Council to be proactive this budget year. Mayor Reinhard stated Council has been working to get the Fire Department to where they need to be. He stated Council has to take action on the budget tonight. The action doesn't have to be approval of the budget. Mayor Reinhard stated he would like to hear from Council at this point and see where they are with the budget. Councilmember Nettle stated we have a finite amount of money coming in. There are some differences in opinions between citizens and Council. Councilmember Nettle stated his difference in opinion is that he

thinks it's time for the citizens to become a part of the ESD. The City could decrease property taxes to balance out the costs for the citizens. Councilmember Tiner stated he would love to fund everything but doesn't think we have the money for that. Maybe they can find the money to increase the Fire Department a little, but there's not enough money to fund a person. He doesn't think we'd get the same service if the City was a part of the ESD. Councilmember Tiner stated as far as needing to fix the roads, he can't see taking money out of contingency to fund that. Shane Reddout stated he can't speak for the ESD but he's not sure if becoming a part of the ESD is a realistic option for the City. Councilmember Thornton stated there's not enough money to go around. He stated the Fire Department does provide the City a better service and we pay a premium for it. Councilmember Thornton stated the City doesn't have enough money to fund a person and doesn't know where the money would come from. Councilmember Nottingham thanked everyone for attending. She stated it's nice to have citizens present and they made good valid points. Councilmember Nottingham stated she appreciates the input and thanked the Mayor for doing an excellent job. She understands we need to work on the roads, the Fire Department has needs and the Police Department needs additional man power. Mayor Reinhard thanked everyone for coming.

2. DISCUSS AND ACT ON THE 2014/2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GREY FOREST

Mayor Reinhard asked if Council was ready to take some sort of action. The motion to post pone adoption of the budget until next week and to vote on and approve the budget at the Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Waldrop, seconded by Councilmember Nottingham and passed unanimously. It was Councils consensus this would give them the opportunity to consider what was discussed this evening.

Mayor Reinhard adjourned the Budget Public Hearing at 9:05 p.m.

These minutes were written/recorded by Shawana Kinsley.

These minutes were approved as ~~written~~ amended on the 23rd day of September, 2014.

Signed: Ronald G. Reinhard
Ronald G. Reinhard, Mayor