

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014
6:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Councilmember Porter called the meeting to order at 5:36p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Absent), Councilmember Johnie Higgs, Sr. (Late), Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. MEETING TOPICS:

3.1.1. Review/Discussion of FY2015 Budget

- Council President Yeargin stated that the purpose of the meeting is to review the budget document.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the City Council will be meeting with the Department Heads for them to provide comment on their budget.
- Council President Yeargin read pages A1 Mayor's Transmittal Letter and A3
- Councilmember Raynor stated that he wanted to know what was the purpose of the meeting tonight, if the Council will be meeting with the Department Heads.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she is just getting the budget book tonight.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the purpose of the meeting is to review the new format of the budget and decide if we want the format to change.
- Councilmember Raynor stated that when you say the format has changed what has changed in the budget.
- Councilmember Raynor stated that if the Council President had received several calls from several Councilmember's regarding the new format, and a few of the Councilmember's stated that they are here for the purpose to meet with the

Department Heads, who are the individuals with the concerns and the City Administrator could have explained this.

- Councilmember Higgs stated that this is the time when the City Administrator should be presenting the budget to the Council.
- Councilmember Higgs stated we are not getting any money for CDBG and the City did not have any representation at the meeting to support the City getting money, but we can call a Special Session regarding something that we can change after we review.
- Councilmember Porter stated that normally when the budget book is presented some parties start going through the book immediately. It is the responsibility of the person to ensure they have the items needed and to be prepared when meeting with the Department Heads.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he had reviewed the budget and had some concerns.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he has a concern with the Council stating that they are not getting information.
- Councilmember Porter asked if the Council had received the information regarding the meeting on Monday and the Mayor was presenting the budget to the Council.
- Councilmember Kennedy inquired when will the Council meet with the Department Heads.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the Council will not be voting on anything tonight.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he had reviewed the budget and the salary increases are nothing new. He stated that once the Council meet they will either agree or disagree with the salary increase changes.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he had come to the meeting expecting to meet with the Department Heads tonight.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that how can the Council get a more transparent review of the budget. He feels the purpose of the meeting tonight should not have been held.
- Councilmember Raynor stated that it was stated that there is a concern regarding money being placed under the City Administrator. He wanted to know if the changes can be made after the Council reviewed the budget or after meeting with the City Administrator.
- Council President Yeargin read the e-mail that was sent out by the City Clerk this morning.

- Councilmember Higgs stated that he feel the meeting is a wasted meeting, as we need to meet with the Department Heads to allow them to give us their narrative. He stated that the Council has the final say.
- Councilmember Simms stated that the purpose of the meeting tonight is to assist the Council in understanding the budget book before we meet with the Department Heads.
- Council President Yeargin stated that if any Councilmember feels the meeting is a waste of time, they can leave the meeting and if there isn't a quorum the meeting will be cancelled.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the format of the budget has changed with regards to the supplies and phones are under the City Administrator. She feels it should be under each department, as they know what their needs are for their department.
- Councilmember Porter stated that since the Council is here he feels that the Council should review their budget and put the Council budget together.
- Councilmember Raynor requested for the Council President to allow the Councilmember's to complete their statements.
- Councilmember Porter stated that the Council Professional Development budget was not changed, as stated by the Mayor during the presentation.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he had some concerns regarding the council budget not being changed.
- Councilmember Porter stated that the Council does not have a salary increase, but the budget book states that the Council was given a 2% Cost of Living Increase.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that Councilmember Porter was right regarding the Mayor presentation and the Council budget was not changed.
- Councilmember Porter stated that the Council has not had the opportunity to provide accomplishments.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he had noticed that some of the departments are taken credit for items that the Council has done.
- Councilmember Porter provided an example of things that the Council could put in the budget as accomplishments. He feels that this would allow us to have an intricate part in the budget.
- Councilmember Porter stated to Councilmember Higgs and Raynor that they attended a meeting to deliberate with the City Administrator for CDBG funding. He feels the citizens should be aware of the Council participation.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that the entire County Council recognized him and Councilmember Raynor for attending the meeting.

- Councilmember Higgs stated that the City Administrator attended settlement for the purchase of the property. He wanted to say tonight show him the deed.
- Councilmember Porter stated that there was a time when the Council did not want to become landlords. He stated that in order for that to have taken place the Council, the legislative body had to approve the action.
- Councilmember Porter stated the Mayor, City Treasurer and the Council was involved was this whole process.
- Councilmember Porter stated that we put the person in the position to make the City look good, as the people look at the Mayor and the Council, if something isn't right.
- Councilmember Higgs stated he agrees with him, but he wanted the City Council to be aware that the City Administrator had done an admiral job in presenting on the City's behalf and we may get some money.
- Councilmember Simms stated that she has a concern in the area of Public Works on page 36 with fleet maintenance. She stated that the monies should be in the department budget not Public Works, as it appears they are receiving more money than they should.
- Councilmember Raynor stated that he understands the concern, but the Public Works Department is using the money to maintain the vehicles for the department.
- Councilmember Raynor stated that it appears that the money was centralized in one area and it makes it easy to manage.
- Councilmember Porter stated that with management there should be control mechanism in place.
- Councilmember Porter stated that it is a matter of control when you centralized items.
- Councilmember Porter stated that his recommendation on the Council Budget page 5 would be to increase the Professional Development to \$49,000 to aid with the increased in the cost for registration.
- Councilmember Porter stated that the Council had passed legislation stating that Council can only attend three conferences per year with MML and NLC.
- Councilmember Porter stated that it was recommended by Mayor Grant for the Council to attend a conference relating to their committee.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he's not being disrespectful to the Mayor or anyone, but no one can dictate the conferences they should attend.
- The City Council requested the City Clerk to check the legislation on the Council attending conferences.

- The City Council discussed changing the language or removing personal vehicles from Professional Development explanation.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he would like for the Council to consider including accomplishment and goals.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the Council may want to consider adding subscription fees.
- The City Council agreed to meet with the Department Heads on Wednesday, April 16 and Friday, April 18, 2014.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1.1. None

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.1.1. Seat Pleasant 4th Annual Walk to Excellence, Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m., Seat Pleasant City Hall

6.1.2. Public Session, Monday, April 14, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.

6.1.3. City Council Departmental Budget Presentation, Wednesday, April 16, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.

6.1.4. FY2014-2015 Budget Hearing, Monday, April 21, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.

6.1.5. FY2014-2015 Budget Hearing, Saturday, April 26, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 10:00a.m.

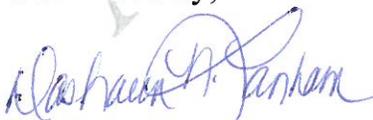
6.1.6. City Council FY2014-2015 Budget Review, Saturday, April 26, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 12:00p.m.

6.1.7. City Council FY2014-2015 Budget Review, Saturday, May 3, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 9:00a.m.

6.1.8 Annual Seat Pleasant Day, Saturday, May 17, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall Ceremony at 9:30a.m., Park Activities Goodwin Park at 12:00p.m.

ADJOURN- The meeting was adjourned at 7:06p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk