

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET HEARING
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015
10:00 A.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Councilmember Higgs called the meeting to order at 10:05a.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

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

Staff: Robert Ashton, City Treasurer, Orson Carter, Assistant City Treasurer, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk

2. Meeting Topics

2.1.1. FY2016 Proposed Budget Hearing

- City Council held the Budget Hearing Meeting in accordance to the City Charter and three residents attended, but did not have any comments.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- James Wright-500 70th St., Seat Pleasant, MD
- Mr. Wright stated that he had the opportunity to review the budget on line. He fully supports the police department and he feels that they deserve as much support as possible. He feels that the budget for Public Works can be larger, but it is adequate. He feels that it is a good document. He feels that this is an interesting time with the change in Annapolis, as they are not giving as much money to the local municipalities.
- Lendora Martin-7250 Joplin St., Seat Pleasant, MD-Ms. Martin stated that she had not planned on making any comments today, but wanted to obtain a copy of the budget. She's been a resident of Seat Pleasant for twenty years and she has seen some improvement. She appreciates the Code Enforcement,

as she has been cited and she's appreciative. She's an Assessor for the State and she has seen some deplorable conditions, which does impact your property values.

- Mr. Wright inquired if the employee's have the option to opt out of the insurance plan. Mr. Ashton stated that the employees have the option to opt out. He stated that the City's Health Insurance is an excellent plan and the City's pays two thirds and the deductible.
- Mr. Wright inquired of the pension plan investment for employees and the investment after ten years. Mr. Ashton stated that the City has changed the plan since the new City Administrator, which allows the employees to invest from onset. However, the city will not invest, but changes are being made to the plan.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the investment of the pension can rob the city of the areas needed in the community.
- Mr. Wright inquired of the City Administrator increased and the full-time Executive Assistant. Mr. Ashton and Councilmember Higgs stated that it is proposed.
- Mr. Wright inquired on the Budget being completed by the City Administrator. Councilmember Higgs explained how the budget preparation should be in accordance to the Charter.
- Mr. Wright stated that the Professional Development for the elected officials and staff is adequate and he believes it is a good.
- Councilmember Simms stated that she will be requesting an increase for some departments with a focus on them obtaining the required training.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that it is so many opportunities that will benefit the city when training is obtained.
- Mr. Wright inquired on the status of the development of the Feggans Center regarding with outside resources.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City has obtained a Financial Advisor to assist the outside resources.
- Councilmember Simms stated that we do have a plan that will be revealed to the residents.
- Mr. Wright inquired on the overtime for the police officers and the gasoline usage.
- Mr. Carter stated that the gasoline allocations is 90 gallons per month. We have a few that have gone over, but it is monitored.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the officers have a 24 hour shift and the overtime is sufficient.

- Ms. Martin inquired if Public Works was responsible for the snow removal in the city.
- Councilmember Simms stated that they are responsible for the city's street only.
- Mr. Wright inquired on the Community Services funding the job fair and job training.
- Councilmember Simms stated that she does not have the numbers for the program, but they are looking at the need for the communities. We will have about ten summer employees this year.
- Mr. Wright inquired if the budget for Seat Pleasant Day has been increased. Mr. Ashton stated that the Council increased the budget for this year event.
- Mr. Wright inquired if Seat Pleasant Day is money generating day for the City.
- Councilmember Higgs and Mr. Ashton stated that the city does not gain any resources from Seat Pleasant Day, as we normal pay out for the event. Mr. Ashton stated that the only resources we gain is from the vendors purchasing tables.
- Mr. Ashton explained the Community Development Block Grant to the residents.
- Mr. Ashton explained the Emergency Contingency in the budget.
- Mr. Ashton explained the Community Legacy Program to assist the residents for repairs or improvements to make their homes for energy efficient.
- Mr. Wright inquired on the purchase of the Gaskin property.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that the purchase was for a prime piece of property.
- Mr. Ashton stated that it was for the City to have site control. He stated that City Hall use to be on George Palmer Highway and moved into this building in 1965.
- Ms. Martin stated that she will be excited to see a change in the City and have the ability to go to the stores within the community.
- Councilmember Simms stated that the Council will be looking into changing the type of businesses that can come into the City. Currently the process is they go the County and get their licensed approved then they come to the City.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1.1. City Council Budget Review, Saturday, April 25, 2015, Council Chambers at 9:00am -5:00p.m.

4.1.2. Annual Seat Pleasant Day, Saturday, May 2, 2015, Parade at 11:00a.m., Goodwin Park from 12:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

4.1.4. Regular Work Session, Monday, May 4, 2015, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.

4.1.5. Public Session, Monday, May 11, 2015, Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.

The Budget hearing adjourned at 11:08a.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham

City Clerk

APPROVED 05/11/15