

CITY OF COOPER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET WORK SESSION
AUGUST 24, 2021 – 5:15 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: DARREN BRADY; MAYOR, DAVID PHILLIPS, ALLEN FOSTER, AMANDA L'ESPERANCE, AND DIANE STEGALL VIA ZOOM.

CITY ATTORNEY: JAY GARRETT VIA ZOOM

OTHERS PRESENT: EMILY HOWSE, DONNA THOMASON, LINDA BARNES, JOSH HOSKISON, JOE ADAMS, KASEY BRITTON, TANNER CRUTCHER, LELAND HOWARD, CHARLES RUGLEDGE, CHARLES RUZICKA, AND CHARLA SINGLETON.

ABSENT: ELMO ROBINSON

AGENDA ITEM #1

Mayor Darren Braddy called the meeting to order and Darren also voiced the prayer.

AGENDA ITEM #2

Mayor Darren Braddy stated that the upcoming 2021-2022 budget was at hand. He stated that the Volunteer Fire Department was in dire need to have someone available in the day time hours. He stated that Tanner Crutcher had put together a plan that would satisfy this need. Tanner Crutcher stated that his proposal was a joint effort between Delta County Emergency Services District (Delta Co. ESD), Delta County, and the City of Cooper. Tanner stated that if the three entities would join together, the cost could be split three ways. The first-year cost would be approximately \$48,000.00 for each entity. This amount was necessary in order to provide bunker gear for the pool of firemen that would be rotating shifts to cover Monday through Friday 6:30 am to 6:30 pm. Tanner stated that during the day hours volunteers have regular jobs and there have been several times that no one was available to make a call. Tanner stated that after the first year the cost would decrease to around \$38,000.00 per entity. Tanner stated that Delta Co ESD had already approved their portion and Delta County was on board to do the same but it was not yet finalized. Tanner stated that the person must be certified to be included in the pool rotation. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that the City of Cooper could come up with their portion of the funds, if the city went above the effective tax rate to the maximum rate allowed which would not consist of an election but would require three public hearings.

There was much discussion on the budget. Amanda L'Esperance wanted to decrease pay raises to a more uniform lower rate in order to produce a little over \$5,000.00. She wanted to take the \$5,000.00 from raises, the Code Enforcer/Building Inspector salary \$8,790.00 and the \$6,000.00 that was allocated to animal control, to help fund a City Police. Diane Stegall asked if raises were given every year. Darren stated that raises were not given every year but have been given each year since he had been in office. Diane stated that the cost of insurance for employees increased their salary \$12,000.00. No action was taken at this time on the budget.

AGENDA ITEM #3

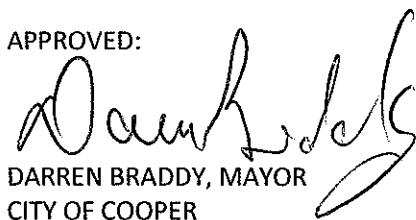
Allen Foster made the motion to approve to prepare the 2021-2022 budget using the maximum rate, not to cause an election but to have three public hearings, of 0.831464 M&O 0.033781 Debt for a total rate of 0.865245. David Phillips seconded. David Phillips voting Aye, Allen Foster voting Aye, Amanda L'Esperance voting Aye and Diane Stegall voting Aye which made a unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #4

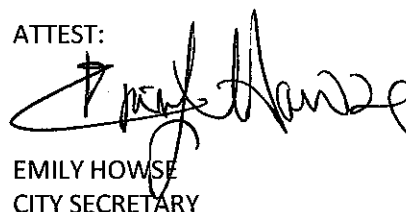
Allen Foster made the motion to adjourn. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

TIME: 6:59 PM

APPROVED:


DARREN BRADY, MAYOR
CITY OF COOPER

ATTEST:


EMILY HOWSE
CITY SECRETARY