

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

The City Council of the City of Trussville met for a duly advertised special workshop session on Friday, September 27, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at Trussville City Hall. Council President Jef Freeman presiding.

Those members present were as follows:

Council President Jef Freeman  
Councilman Perry Cook  
Councilman Brian Plant  
Councilman Alan Taylor

Absent: Councilman Zack Steele

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat

The workshop was convened and Mayor Choat stated Finance Director Mike Hinson has worked with the department heads on this budget. The budget includes a 2% cost of living adjustment at a cost of roughly \$300,000, and Longevity at a cost of \$85,000. Last year we had 119 employees who received merit increases and 86 who were topped out. This budget includes merit increases, and projected a 5% increase in health insurance costs. We were notified late last week that the actual increase will be 4.9% beginning in January, giving an effective increase of 3.7%. The city will absorb this increase. There were several requests for promotions and new hires. IT has asked for an entry level person to assist them, and municipal court has asked for a counter person. Some capital projects have been included. There were several requests for vehicles. Our line of credit at Bryant Bank will be used to finance these with a four-year pay out.

Councilman Cook asked the cost of the third IT person and was told \$40,000 plus benefits.

Mayor Choat stated our budgeted revenues are \$35,551,600. This is a 3% increase over this year. We may fall short on sales tax revenues this year by \$200,000-\$300,000.

Council President Freeman asked the forecast for SSUT for this year. Mike Hinson stated he did not remember the budgeted amount, but the actual was about \$325,000.

Councilman Cook asked how the Entertainment District was projected, and Mayor Choat stated very little was added for the coming year. The brewery hopes to open in November, but other businesses will not open until the Summer of 2020 just before the end of the fiscal year. Our budget for the next year will reflect this area.

Mayor Choat stated this budget does include a \$175,000 match for a grant that Parks and Recreation has applied for to renovate the ballfields behind the Library and to install some outdoor exercise equipment. ADECA has approved this grant and it is at the federal level now. We have budgeted for a full year for ALDI, who is doing a bigger business at their new location, and the Jebeles development with Metro Diner and Chicken Salad Chick.

Councilman Taylor stated our current budget was adjusted in May to \$34,508,724. He asked how accurate this was to actual collections?

Mayor Choat stated we expect to see it very close.

Councilman Taylor stated in previous years, we have not adjusted the budget, and actual frequently out-performed projections. The last couple of years, we have amended the budget to meet actual performance. He asked would this budget be adjusted, and Mike Hinson replied he plans to look at it mid-year and recommend necessary adjustments.

Councilman Cook questioned the amount budgeted for the Jefferson County Personnel Board in the 2020 budget.

Mayor Choat stated we are billed in arrears, so this amount will still be due, but we will not have to pay it in the following years.

Councilman Taylor pointed out that as we form our own system, we will have additional expenses to run it.

Mayor Choat stated we have a lot of history on the budget now, and he feels this will be close as we go forward.

Councilman Cook stated the amount allocated for the Chamber is \$32,500. He asked is this enough? The promote the city and recruit new businesses.

Mayor Choat stated in the search for a new director, benefits were an issue. He stated he told them that if necessary, he would bring this to the Council.

Councilman Taylor stated he appreciated the work done on this by Mike and the department heads.

Councilman Plant stated they had a good Finance meeting on Tuesday, and we have taken care of our employees. He stated he hopes this information filters down to the employees and that they feel this is fair. He thanked the Mayor for his work on the budget also.

Council President Freeman stated that what has been shared this morning has helped him. He stated a packet without a narrative is hard to digest. The Finance Committee had information previously, but not the rest of the Council.

Mayor Choat stated he would like to have quarterly meetings on the budget. This morning we have the nuts and bolts, and he would like us to share the progress.

Councilman Taylor stated municipal accounting is like reading the Bible in Hebrew. He stated when he was at the bank, once a year Carr, Riggs, and Ingram taught them how to read municipal audits.

Mayor Choat stated there were more capital expense requests from public safety than from other departments. The fire department radios must be replaced. Police vehicles must be replaced, and also we are increasing the motor patrol, so two motorcycles will be purchased at approximately \$50,000 each versus \$100,000 each for a vehicle. Public Works needs to replace two high mileage vehicles for Wayne and Frank. The new carpeting at the Civic Center is already installed, but the bill will be paid from this budget. The contingency item has \$19,000 in it.

Councilman Taylor asked what items have been taken out of contingency since the previous balance of \$121,000?

Mike Hinson stated the "ask" for vehicles was high and was originally shown at full purchase price. In trimming the budget, and deciding to finance the vehicles, the \$121,000 was diminished.

Mayor Choat stated there is also \$150,000 for a remount for a rescue unit.

Councilman Taylor stated we will see how our revenues go before making these purchases.

Council President Freeman asked what about economic development, and what is the budget?

Mayor Choat stated there is \$250,000 for land acquisition for the downtown loop road. Last year we budgeted for the 2040 group, but not this year.

Council President Freeman stated he would like to see us think about this moving forward. We might need travel expense for a CEO who comes to look at us.

Mike Hinson stated there is not a specific department or amount in this budget.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned.

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in a duly advertised special session on Friday, September 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at Trussville City Hall. Council President Freeman presided over the meeting and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary.

Those persons answering present to roll call were as follows:

Council President Jef Freeman  
Councilman Perry Cook  
Councilman Brian Plant  
Councilman Alan Taylor

Absent: Councilman Zack Steele

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat  
Attorney Rick Stotser

Councilman Taylor stated the notice of this meeting stated it was to adopt the 2019-2020 budget, but the City Clerk has just received the billing for our liability and property insurance for 2019-2020. He moved that this insurance item be added to the agenda, seconded by Councilman Plant and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Taylor moved Resolution 2019-048 adopting the FY 2019-2020 budget in the amount of \$35,551,300 as recommended by the Finance Committee be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Plant moved the Liability and Property insurance bill from Best Insurance Group for coverage from AMIC in the amount of \$296,300.00 be approved, seconded by Councilman Taylor, and the vote was unanimous.

No other business coming before the Council, a motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn B. Porter  
City Clerk