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City Council Meeting  
Mebane Municipal Building  
*Regular Meeting*  
Monday, June 2, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

The Mebane City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 2, 2014 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 106 E. Washington Street.

Council members Present:

Mayor Glendel Stephenson  
Mayor Pro Tem Ed Hooks  
Councilmember Tim Bradley  
Councilmember Jill Auditori  
Councilmember Everette Greene  
Councilmember Patty Philipps

Also Present:

David Cheek, City Manager  
Chris Rollins, Asst. City Manager  
Lawson Brown, City Attorney  
Jeanne Tate, Finance Officer  
Esther Bennett, HR Director  
Stephanie Shaw, City Clerk  
Terry Caldwell, Police Chief  
Blythe Jackson, Police Officer

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Mayor Stephenson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chief Caldwell introduced Officer Blythe Jackson. He stated Officer Jackson has been with the Mebane Police Department for two years and is a graduate of Alamance Community College (ACC) where she received her degree in Animal Care Management. He stated she was originally hired as an Animal Patrol Officer but her duties have since changed and she is now on patrol. He acknowledged that Officer Jackson was recently nominated for the ACC Distinguished Alumni Award. Although she did not receive the award, Chief Caldwell and the Council commended her for doing a great job for the police department, the city and the community.

Mr. Bradley gave the invocation.

No one spoke during the public comment period.

A Public Hearing was held on a request for approval of the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance. Mr. Cheek presented several highlights in the proposed budget ordinance which included a \$0.03 property tax increase. He explained that the primary driver for the increase is the new south side fire station which will employ nine new employees. In addition to the proposed \$0.03 tax increase, Mebane requested a \$0.02 fire district tax increase from Alamance County. Mr. Cheek stated that two new positions are proposed in the budget, an Information Systems Director and a Special Projects Coordinator.

In regards to the Position Classification and Pay Plan within the proposed budget, Mr. Bradley questioned what necessitates a change in salary if an employee is between the minimum and the maximum. Mr. Cheek replied that there are eight intervals between the minimum and the job rate, if an employee's salary falls between one of those intervals they will be moved to the next interval. After employees reach the job rate the salaries will be increased by merit raises.

Morris Dean, 608 Collington Drive, stated he is privileged to live in a city with a rational council, as our guardians, which take into account what is required to have a functioning and civilized society.

Mr. Greene made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hooks, to close the Public Hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hooks commended staff on preparing a wonderful budget. He stated while he is not a fan of tax increases there comes a time when they become necessary. Mr. Hooks proposed to leave the budget as is with the following changes:

- 1) Removal of the Comprehensive Plan- \$100,000
- 2) Removal of Walker Field Lights Replacement- \$260,000
- 3) Removal of Remodeling of City Hall Offices- \$50,000
- 4) A \$0.02 tax increase instead of a \$0.03 tax increase

Mr. Hooks turned his proposal into a motion. Mr. Bradley seconded the motion.

Mr. Greene discussed the timing of conducting a transportation plan. He expressed his concern with moving forward with the plan until NCDOT has finalized all interchange projects for Mebane. Ms. Philipps stated carrying out a transportation plan is important because of all the growth the city is experiencing.

Ms. Auditori thanked the staff for preparing an excellent budget and stated she could support the budget as presented but agreed with all the points discussed.

Tom Boney, editor of Alamance News, asked for clarification on the requested changes to the proposed budget. Clarification was given by staff.

Mr. Hooks stated it was his intention to include, in his previous motion, the point brought forth by Mr. Greene to leave the money for the transportation plan in the budget but to not proceed with the plan until NCDOT has finalized all interchange projects for Mebane. The motion to approve the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance, with the aforementioned changes, carried unanimously.

Ms. Tate presented a request for approval of the audit contract between the City of Mebane and Cobb, Ezekiel, Loy and Company, P.A. for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. By motion of Ms. Philipps, seconded by Mr. Hooks, the request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Rollins presented a request for approval to declare timber and other real or personal property owned by the City of Mebane on the Swordfish Property as surplus pursuant to NCGS 160A-266. He explained that the City of Mebane and the City of Graham co-own all of the 184.66 acre Swordfish Property. The property has various items of real and personal property on it, including timber and various structures with potential value. The Cities are preparing to convey the property to Wal-Mart in August and seek the official authorization to remove and sell any component of value as required. Estimated sales cost is \$15,000. Mr. Greene made a motion, seconded by Ms. Auditori, to approve the request as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bennett presented a request for adoption of a Resolution to join the Group Self-Insurance Pool for Worker's Compensation Risk Sharing with the N.C. League of Municipalities (NCLM). She explained in April 2014 staff was notified by EMC Insurance Company that the city's Worker's Compensation premiums would be \$250,644 for FY2015 due to increasing claims costs. The quote represented a 96% increase over the FY2014 premium of \$127,960. Believing this increase to be unjustified, staff applied to the NCLM for Worker's Compensation coverage and received a quote of \$152,360, saving \$98,284 compared to EMC's quote.

Mr. Bradley shared concerns with joining a self insurance pool.

After considerable discussion among Council and staff, Ms. Auditori made a motion, seconded by Ms. Philipps, to adopt the Resolution and to enter into the Interlocal Agreement for a Group Self-Insurance Pool for Workers' Compensation Risk Sharing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brown presented a request for approval of an Agreement between Mebane and DSSS, Inc. for relocation of two non-conforming billboards. He explained that the two non-conforming single face billboards are located on the south side of the interstate and are located in the area that NCDOT is constructing the access/service road to the new Morinaga facility. NCDOT will not begin the road construction until the two existing signs are removed. The City is authorized to enter into such agreements allowing the re-location under NCGS 160A-199. The new sign will be located across the interstate and will be a V-shaped two sided sign on a monopole.

Mr. Hooks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greene, to approve the agreement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The minutes of the May 12, 2014 regular meeting were approved as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

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Glendel Stephenson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Stephanie W. Shaw, City Clerk