

TOWN OF LAKE HAMILTON MEETING MINUTES

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

5:00 pm

Call To Order /Roll Call – Vice Chair Kehoe called the workshop meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Members present: O'Neill, Roberson, Kehoe, Tomlinson. Clerk Irvine was present. Harris arrived at 5:29. Mayor Wagner was absent.

Workshop Business:

A. 2014-2015 Budget discussion – Clerk Irvine presented the Council with an updated budget that reflects changes made to the sanitation department budget. The expenses exceed the revenues. Kehoe suggested the position be changed to part-time. Roberson felt that the entire 40 hours per week could be allocated in other public works budget as was done with the supervisor position. O'Neill suggested it stay as is and the town can find a way to fund it. Irvine continued to review the department summary budget.

Planner Leonard reviewed the proposed water use rate schedule. It reflects charges based on the amount of water used. A typical customer who uses 11,490 gallons per month has a current total water bill of \$53.75. Under the new rates the bill would increase to \$61.75, an increase of 14.9%. Leonard explained that the first draft of the ordinance does not include a CPI or other continuing increase but that is a recommendation.

Kehoe suggested an increase plan of 2.5 for the first two years after the increase and then a 5% increase every year thereafter. Roberson suggested increasing the rate on businesses and not so much on the residents. Or do an increase for those who exceed 4,000. Leonard stated that it is easier to manage a flat rate increase. He suggested 3% increase for three years; 2% increase for 2 years; then the CPI rate after that. Roberson thought a distinction could be made between out of town and business customers and in town residential. Such as 5% for three years and 3% thereafter for outside and business and similar to Leonard's proposal for in town customers. Kehoe suggested that users who use less than 4,000 gallons could be exempt from an annual increase. O'Neill reported that it would only be about a 30 cent increase.

Chair Harris arrived at 5:29. Staff quickly reviewed the discussion so far. A bill for an average water user would be increase by about \$15.50 under the proposed rate structure.

A resident asked about rates for elderly and council informed them that they have structured the rate schedule to be less of an impact on users who do not use over 4,000 gallons per month.

MOTION by Kehoe/Roberson to adjourn the workshop at 5:48 PM. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:


TOWN CLERK Sara K. Irvine


Chair Person Ralph N. Harris