



Village of Jones Creek

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CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AGENDA & WORKSHOP SESSION AGENDA MEETING MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022 AT 6:30 PM.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 6:30PM
2. **INVOCATION** *Led by Alderman David Galloway, Pledge said by all.*
3. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS** *All members present.*
4. **BUSINESS OF VISITORS**
None.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
None.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Discuss and consider Village of Jones Creek Tax Rate.** *Alderswoman Nicole Hardesty reached out to the County Tax Assessor since she knew we should have received documents as of June and she had not seen them presented yet. She was told that this email was sent to the City Secretary and Mayor on June 20th. Mrs. Hardesty asked that this email be resent and to please copy her on this email so she also had a copy. The form is very simple to fill out since we do not have any debt. All that applies is line item No. 10. Which is the Maintenance and Operations numbers. If we had been working on the budget previously, this number would have been easier to come up with. Since we do not have our Budget, Mrs. Hardesty just assumed the No new tax rate and certified appraisal. She roughly totaled \$340,000 so we can send this to the Tax assessor and she can give us the 3 rates for council to approve our Tax rate. If we miss the September 20th deadline, we will not be on the consolidated bill for tax billing. This would mean the Village of Jones Creek would have a separated tax bill, which would be troublesome for our city. Alderman Glenn Jordan made it aware that this should not happen again, that we should not be this far behind. Audience member Anna Galloway asked if this was costing the city anything with this increase. Alderswoman Nicole Hardesty said that last year it was \$307,000, and even if we choose the No new tax rate, due to property taxes going up, this raised our taxes. This would be \$33,000 more and it could help us with our short falls in the city. This estimate is \$340,000. Alderman David Galloway asked what the 3 tax rates are? One stays the same, No New tax rate, Voter approval, lower the tax rate. Due to not knowing what the Budget is, how are we able to determine which tax rate to use. Our operating and maintenance we roughly spend around \$1.1 to 1.2 Million per year, we have an estimated \$300,000 that comes out of the court system, we have \$340,000 if we do get the increase with is 10% so that brings us to about \$640,000. Which leaves us with about \$580,000 deficit. Alderman Glenn Jordan mentioned that we only have a certain percentage that we are allowed before it has to be voted on. Marshal William Tidwell said he has not*

received his Budget Expenditures so he can not respond on costs at this time. Alderman Nicole Hardesty Motioned to Fill in line 10 with \$340,000 on the Tax worksheet, 2nd Alderman Glenn Jordan, all in favor, except Alderman AJ Jinkins (Nay), motion carried. Alderman AJ Jinkins expressed his opinion as to why, he claimed that if we increase our budget now, it means we have to increase our taxes. We have limited income and 8-12% inflation and people are already having issues, he doesn't feel like slapping a higher tax on residents is the right way to do it.

Workshop Session:

Mayor Jeffers asked if the CPA had sent over forms, City Secretary let them know that the forms associated with a different company and had to be changed, she spoke with Kelly from Green and McElreath and they said they were working on this change. No response as of this afternoon. She would call them again in the morning. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked what it would take to get the Quickbooks password and log in information to get the Budget in the works. City Secretary Brittney Fairchild, asked why we needed the CPA if she would be handling it, and Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty said because we need it done now. The CPA has nothing to do with expenditures. The Marshal asked for this report some time ago, and hadn't received it. City Secretary said she was overwhelmed and unsure of this process and needs to be reminded at times. She apologized for her lack of response. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty said we need to work on Checks and Balances. We are in this position because of lack of response. 2 people got an email, and there wasn't a response. Mayor Terry Jeffers said he does not recall getting this email but will go back and look Alderman Glenn Jordan, mentioned that we have a new person to this role and we as leader must guide her. This falls back on him as Mayor to make sure she is properly educated in this position. Mayor Terry Jeffers agreed. Alderman Glenn Jordan said this also falls back on Council. Mayor Terry Jeffers asked if Green & McElreath would be helping with the Budget, Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty said they would need to do the books first and Council needs to do their own Budget. It is our responsibility. As of now they have not gone through any of our books. They need to send a corrected Engagement letter. Then we can begin the process. The Lawyer needs to look over this letter and verify acceptance. Alderman Corey Thomas motioned that Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty, Mayor Pro Tem, gets the login information to go over our Budget Expenditures and check into our financial to log into quickbooks, 2nd Alderman AJ Jinkins, all in favor, motion carried. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty said we need to schedule another meeting soon to go over the Budget. The Marshal needs his information and the Court will need their information if it will be on the next agenda. Alderman Glenn Jordan asked if there was a reason why this was an issue, and if help is needed for these items. City Secretary mentioned that she is overwhelmed and she does forget sometimes, she's spread thin. She understands her lack of time has held her away from this. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty wanted to make sure that the PUC Follow up would be on the agenda, as well as a follow up with our goals meeting in executive session, and also to talk about the Garbage bills and issues that are happening lately with payments, looks, and timing. She also mentioned making sure a Zoning Committee Workshop should be scheduled.

- **Village of Jones Creek FY-22-23 Budget.**

Certificate of Deposits should be the same, Capital Surplus should not be there, it was \$30,000 and we have been using all of our Budget. Ad Valorem was \$307,000, now would be \$340,000, Franchise Fees should stay about the same, Sales tax will decrease or stay the same. The Marshal asked the construction companies coming in to help purchase from our community stores. Animal registration fees are at \$1500, but this isn't close. We need to reach out with renewals for Registration fees. Game rooms should be non existent, inspection fees are going to go up. \$17000, Court Fines can be raised for

speeding tickets. Revenue is done from the court, we anticipated more but sometimes it will go up and down. School zone and construction fines will go up. School District can help with safety and possibly crossing guards. It's a safety hazard with all of the barricades. No fines have been increased in awhile. Suggestion of a list of fines and last raised fines dates. We need to generate revenue. Workshops for Zoning can be on weekends as long as 72hr notice of meeting. Anything we can generate revenue besides raising taxes. Everything runs on taxes for the Village. Grant money will run out. We need to go out looking for Grants, council can go out for grants. Costs for Streets Department have went down over the years. There was a full time and part time employees at that time. Payroll is \$700,000 is our largest expense and our people aren't compensated compared to other cities. Our tax rate is high compared to other cities, but they can spread it out more. We don't offer the same amenities. We need to make a list of ideas and remember that we do not have a surplus of \$30,000. Actual costs are not available at this time. We have just estimated 2020 Budget. City does have the option to raise sales tax. Tax is 7.75 per in the Village. We have had to raise our trash bills. Alderman AJ Jinkins mentioned that he doesn't want to increase the sales tax, we want to tighten up the budget instead. We gave hope into generating revenue and it was inflated, and it was not working. Tighten up the budget would mean people would lose jobs. You cut Expenditure or increase revenue. We need to look into this further. People who disobey the law should be fined. The Marshal will work with the Judge for comparisons on our next council meeting. Everyone should access this through Google Drive, search council, Alderman David can be added. Alderman David Galloway mentioned that payroll budgeted was before the ARPA increase, but this can be taken away to show separation on our budget. It's on a separate spreadsheet. Glenn Jordan asked what the cost was around 98,000 ARPA funds were approved total. We had different meetings starting in June last year for these budgets. We have to have it submitted and approved by Sept. 20th. There is a timeline for being able to get all the meetings needed for approval. Expedite this email. Credit processing and dues will stay the same, insurance will remain the same, attorney fees have to be paid. Once we get numbers we should be able to move forward with estimated costs by Alderman Glenn Jordan. ARPA funds are not apart of the budget. Seizure funds do not come out of the Budget. All committees are not apart of the Budget. Revenue only. Those accounts are for specific events and can be used separately. Fuel costs, electric, gas bills have went up. Inflation has gone up. Cost for radios will go up. Grants help with the Marshal's office, our government is changing and we have 2 yrs to upgrade this. Each radio is \$6- 8,000 for the Marshal's office. Internally he has a log for fuel expenditures, bases on \$4 a gallon and this year it will be off. Prices will vary but they are usually in the clear. The tank out back was used once and the top was left open and filled with water. The tank is ours, but needs to be sucked out and cleaned for use. Once we get an actual he can determine full cost. Law enforcement insurance goes up due to standard fees, full time position has never been filled. Overtime is covered by this at times. The Budget will have to be amended due to estimated amounts. Item for item budgeting. Office supplies costs has gone up. The Marshal said they are trying to drive less to reduce cost. Park Maintenance Budget wasn't much, but we have gone over costs. Street and drainage

was \$25000, grants helped with this. Street lights went up. Time gets away from us and we can add actual to the Council Budget sheet. Discussion on the Budget worksheets. Salaries should go down due to lower pay and consolidation of jobs. Trash companies raised rates and we are profiting. Trash and Court brings in 17-20,000 a month depending on if people are paying their bills. We are still profiting on this amount with raise. Bills go out on the 20-26th date range after submitting this. We print the bills. We missed this date recently due to paper, latest has gone out was the 28th. We do not offer paperless billing at this time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn Alderman, AJ Jinkins, 2nd Alderman Corey Thomas, all in favor, motion carried.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the minutes of this Special Called Meeting have been reviewed and are true.


Brittney Fairchild, City Secretary

NOTE: ITEMS WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE DISCUSSED AND ACTED ON IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR ON THE AGENDA. THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN, AT ITS DISCRETION, MAY DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE ITEMS LISTED IN A DIFFERENT ORDER IF A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD SO DETERMINES.

This notice is being posted pursuant to the Texas Open Meeting Act. (Chapter 551, Government Code). In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, on request the Village of Jones Creek will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings of its Board of Aldermen. Request for such accommodations or for interpreter services should be received 48 hours prior to any meeting. Please contact the Village Secretary's office at 979-233-2700 to request such accommodations.