

**MINUTES OF THE
OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 16, 2011**

The meeting of the City Council of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Courtroom with Mayor Thomas L. Beehan presiding.

INVOCATION: Reverend Tim Borchert, First Baptist Church of Oak Ridge, TN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Steve Reddick

ROLL CALL:

The following Councilmembers were present: Anne Garcia Garland, Thomas Hayes, Charles Hensley, Jane Miller, David Mosby, Ellen Smith, and Mayor Thomas Beehan.

Also present were City Manager Mark Watson, City Attorney Kenneth Krushenski, Deputy City Manager Steven Jenkins, and City Clerk Donna Patterson.

I. APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

Mayor Beehan opened the meeting for public comments. There were no citizen comments.

II. PUBLIC HEARING AND 1ST READING OF ORDINANCES

**1. PROPOSED FY 2012 CITY OF OAK RIDGE BUDGET ORDINANCE
[PUBLIC HEARING & 1ST READING]**

City Clerk Donna Patterson read the ordinance title as follows: An ordinance to provide revenue for municipal purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, by imposing a tax on all property within the city, fixing the rate of the tax, adopting a budget, and adopting appropriations.

City Manager Mark Watson stated that tonight is the public hearing and 1st reading of the proposed FY 2012 City of Oak Ridge Budget Ordinance. This allows Council and staff discussion and citizen comments.

City Manager Mark Watson explained that the proposed FY 2012 budget has been available for public review on the City's website, the Oak Ridge Library, and in the City Clerk's office. The City's General Fund municipal expenditures are budgeted at \$19,453,250. This is a 1.1%, \$212,979, increase over fiscal 2011 budgeted expenditure levels. The presented property tax rate is \$2.49 per \$100 of assessed valuation as outlined in Section 2 of the ordinance. The tax increase is primarily due to funding requested by the Oak Ridge Schools, which is an additional \$159,171 request. The City's operating transfer to the Oak Ridge Schools is presented at the School Board's requested fiscal 2012 funding level of \$15,529,302.

City Manager Mark Watson gave a general overview of the total budget for City operations, the formal presentation having been made at a previous meeting. Following his overview, he responded to questions and comments of the City Councilmembers.

Following his presentation, Mayor Beehan opened the public hearing for citizen comments.

The following citizens came forward and spoke in favor of a property tax increase in order to provide the full amount of funding requested by the School Board: Steve Reddick, 109 Belle Creek Drive and a teacher at Jefferson Middle School; Dr. Marian Phillips, 10 Raintree Place and Preschool Principal; Mardee Miller, 101 Davidson Lane and Principal of Willow Brook Elementary; Roger Ward, 117 Winchester Circle and Principal of Linden Elementary School; Mike Baker, 107 Greystone Drive and Principal of Robertsville Middle School; Amber Godbee, 103

Davidson Lane and speaking on behalf of Oak Ridge High School Principal Dr. Jody Goins; Pearl Goins, 161 Cypress Lane and Principal of Glenwood Elementary School; Dr. Hal Jernigan, 1138 W. Outer Drive and Director of Special Education for Oak Ridge Schools.

Martin McBride, 954 W. Outer Drive, came forward and requested for the Council to balance the shortfall of school funds against other City priorities in the non-school budget, which would not require a tax increase.

Trina Baughn, 119 Newport Drive, came forward and spoke against a property tax increase in order to provide the funding requested by the School Board.

Janet Westbrook, 112 Baltimore Drive, doesn't think additional funding should be spent on upgrading technology in the schools.

There being no further comments, Mayor Beehan called for a motion to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Hensley, to close the public hearing.

Those voting for: Councilmembers Garcia Garland, Hayes, Hensley, Miller, Mosby, Smith, and Mayor Beehan.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hayes, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the ordinance as presented.

A motion was made by Councilmember Garcia Garland to amend Section 5 of the ordinance to reduce the transfer to the General Purpose School Fund for Operations by \$1,059,171 for a new transfer amount of \$14,470,131 which reduces the tax rate implied from \$2.49 to \$2.39.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilmember Smith noted that the Council is not in a position to instruct the schools how to spend the funds they are allotted. The School Budget presented to the Council does not show cuts in preschool teacher positions or other items that were mentioned tonight. She feels that the Council is being accused of threatening to do things they have no control over.

Robert Eby, Vice Chairman of the Oak Ridge Board of Education, came forward and explained that the budget presented to the Council covers the needs of the schools. If the budget is not fully funded, then the School Board will have to decide how they will reduce that budget. It will be a decision made by the Board of Education in the future.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hensley, seconded by Councilmember Garcia Garland, to amend Section 5 of the ordinance to reduce the transfer to the General Purpose School Fund for Operations by \$900,000 for a new transfer amount of \$14,629,302 which reduces the tax rate from \$2.49 to \$2.39 and obligates the City to a future funding commitment to the schools in the amount of \$159,171 above FY 2011 appropriations.

Those voting for: Councilmembers Garcia Garland, Hayes, Hensley, Miller, Mosby, Smith, and Mayor Beehan.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Garcia Garland, to remove the second sentence in the Operating Budget Policies #9 which states 'In particular, the City will continue the scheduled level of maintenance and replacement for its infrastructure and fleet.'

Those voting for: Councilmembers Garcia Garland, Hayes, Hensley, Miller, Mosby, Smith, and Mayor Beehan.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hensley, seconded by Councilmember Garcia Garland, to amend the Operating Budget Policies by changing #5 to state that 'The Council will meet at least three times annually with the Board of Education to discuss the services offered by the schools and factors affecting budget preparation for next fiscal year.' *instead of* 'The Council may meet once or more annually with the Board of Education to discuss the services offered by the schools and factors affecting budget preparation for next fiscal year.'

Councilmember Garcia Garland requested for Councilmember Hensley to amend his motion to also add 'as well as a means of cooperating between city administration and school administration' to the sentence.

Councilmember Hensley amended his motion and Councilmember Garcia Garland amended her second.

Mayor Beehan called for a vote.

Those voting for: Councilmembers Garcia Garland, Hensley, Miller, Mosby, Smith, and Mayor Beehan

Those voting against: Councilmember Hayes

Motion carried.

Councilmember Hayes explained that he does not think that the Council and School Board should be tied down to a certain number of meetings before adopting the budget. It may not be possible at the time.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Hensley, to remove all of the policies from the Operating Budget Policies with the exception of #7 and #11.

Councilmember Hensley suggested a review of all the policies at a later date.

After discussion, Councilmember Smith withdrew her motion and Councilmember Hensley withdrew his second, with the understanding that the City Manager will provide a briefing and overview of the Operating Budget Policies prior to voting on the 2nd reading of the FY 2012 Budget Ordinance.

Mayor Beehan called for a vote on the 1st reading of the FY 2012 Budget Ordinance as amended.

Those voting for: Councilmembers Garcia Garland, Hayes, Hensley, Miller, Mosby, Smith, and Mayor Beehan.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

1. FY 2011 BUDGET APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT ORDINANCE FOR SCHOOL FUND

City Clerk Donna Patterson read the ordinance title as follows: An ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 8-10, which ordinance imposes a tax on all property within the city, fixes the rate of the tax, adopts a budget, and adopts appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, by amending said appropriations.

A motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Hensley, to adopt the ordinance as presented.

Those voting for: Councilmembers Garcia Garland, Hayes, Hensley, Miller, Mosby, Smith, and Mayor Beehan.

The motion carried unanimously.

IV. SUMMARY OF CURRENTS EVENTS

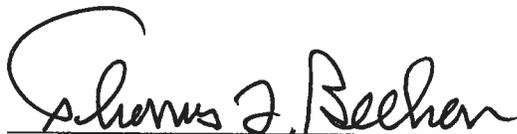
1. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

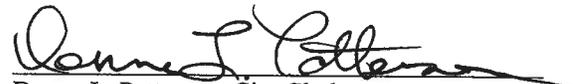
City Manager Mark Watson invited everyone to the Cedar Hill Park Playground Rebuild project beginning on Wednesday and ending on Sunday with a ribbon-cutting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Approved this 13th day of June, 2011.


Thomas L. Beehan, Mayor


Donna L. Patterson, City Clerk