OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Municipal Building Courtroom

July 27, 2015—7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. ROLL CALL

II. PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE

a. AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGAN JULY 1, 2015 BY ADOPTING A BUDGET AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.

III. ADJOURNMENT

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Municipal Building Courtroom

July 27, 2015—Immediately Following Adjournment of the 7:00 p.m. Special Meeting

I. ROLL CALL

II. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND AN ORDINANCE

a. A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CERTIFIED TAX RATE OF $2.52 FOR THE RECENTLY COMPLETED GENERAL REAPPRAISAL OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED §67-5-1701.

b. AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2015 (JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015) AS $2.52 PER $100.00 OF ASSESSED VALUE.
(The above ordinance is being considered as part of First Reading)

c. A RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE DUE DATE AND DELINQUENCY DATE SCHEDULE FOR PROPERTY TAXES FOR TAX YEAR 2015 (JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015).

d. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT OF THE OAK RIDGE ROWING ASSOCIATION'S EFFORTS TO BRING THE 2016 AMERICAN COLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS TO OAK RIDGE.

III. ADJOURNMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM
15-08

DATE: July 15, 2015

TO: Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article II, Section 2, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a special meeting of City Council is hereby called for Monday, July 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Courtroom, 200 S. Tulane Avenue. This meeting will be limited to consideration and a public hearing on the following:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGAN JULY 1, 2015 BY ADOPTING A BUDGET AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.

Mark S Watson

Mark S. Watson

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

15-12

DATE: July 24, 2015

TO: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

FROM: Janice E. McGinnis, Finance Director

SUBJECT: FINAL ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL 2016 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Introduction

An item for City Council's consideration is final adoption of the Budget Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal 2016, which began on July 1, 2015.

Review

Attached, City staff has provided the following documents related to the appropriation ordinance:

- Strikethrough Showing Changes of new "Amended Ordinance"
- Amended Ordinance with no reference to tax rate
- Communication from the City Manager regarding additional budget considerations
- Updated Review of FY2016 Budget
- Agenda documents presented for first reading of appropriation ordinance

As a result of delays in receiving the certified tax rate from the State of Tennessee's Comptroller's Office, City staff has presented an ordinance that would adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2016, but not address a tax rate. That ordinance contains the same appropriation amounts as presented in the proposed budget document and as approved by City Council at first reading of the appropriation ordinance on June 15, 2015. The changes reflected in the "Amended Ordinance" is the deletion of the sections relating to the property tax rate and to update the dates of public hearings and meetings related to the review and adoption of the Fiscal 2016 budget appropriations (please see the "Strikethrough Showing Changes" Ordinance). These changes were drafted by City staff so that the City's Fiscal 2016 budget adoption process could be completed.

Subsequently, the certified tax rate has been received by the City and the 2015 property tax rate adoption process will begin with first reading of that ordinance to occur during the second special meeting.

As referenced earlier, the amended ordinance prepared by City staff contains the *same* appropriations as approved on first reading, including the operating transfer to the Oak Ridge Schools at the $15,280,915 amount requested by the School Board, which is $651,613 above the $14,629,302 amount transferred to the Schools in fiscal 2015. The General Fund appropriation also remains at $25,218,403.

The budget appropriations, as presented in the amended ordinance, are based on a rate of $2.58 thus requiring City Council's consideration of a 6 cent tax increase from the $2.52 certified rate to fund General Fund operations.

Upon final adoption of the appropriation ordinance, City staff will calculate the tax rate required to fund FY 2016 operations of the General Fund

Recommendation

City staff recommends consideration of the "Amended Ordinance" included in the July 27, 2015 agenda packet.

Janice E. McGinnis

City Manager's Comments:

I have reviewed the above issue and recommend Council action as outlined in this document.

Mark S. Watson

7/24/15
Date

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE APPROVED ON FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO._____

TITLE

AN ORDINANCE TO CARRY-OVER A TEMPORARY TAX RATE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, BY IMPOSING A TEMPORARY TAX RATE ON ALL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY, AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.

WHEREAS, the City Manager, in accordance with the requirements of Article V, Section 10, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, has submitted to City Council a proposed budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year upon which two (2) public hearings were held on June 8, 2015 and June 15, 2015 with the June 15, 2015 public hearing serving as the official Charter required public hearing; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of said Charter section, meetings were held with City Council on April 13, 2015 which served to provide guidance to the City Manager on the preparation of the proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, City Council met on June 8, 2015 and June 15, 2015 for official consideration and approval of said appropriation ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

Section 1. The budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 submitted to City Council by the City Manager, is hereby adopted.

Section 2. In order to provide revenue for municipal purposes, there is hereby temporarily imposed on the value of all property within the City of Oak Ridge as such value has been ascertained by the taxing authority of the City, a temporary levy at the rate of $2.39 upon each One Hundred Dollars' ($100.00) worth of assessed value of all taxable property. This temporary levy to be the estimated tax rate for the tax year 2015 until the State and Roane County complete the five-year re-appraisal process, and the State Comptroller's Office presents a new, certified tax rate to the City of Oak Ridge, after which Council shall amend this ordinance and adopt a permanent levy for the current tax year to replace this temporary tax rate. This temporary levy shall also be imposed upon such assessments as may be certified for tax purposes to the City of Oak Ridge by the State of Tennessee.

Section 3. In accordance with Article V, Section 13, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, the following amounts shall be and hereby are adopted as appropriations by funds for the operation of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for Fiscal Year 2016:

General Fund, Municipal Operations	$ 25,218,403
General Purpose School Fund	$ 59,591,614
Debt Service (Bond and Interest Redemption Fund)	$ 8,415,000
Capital Projects Fund	$ 3,951,910
Drug Enforcement Program Fund	$ 255,200
State Street Aid Fund	$ 1,721,000
Golf Course Fund	$ 1,193,049
West End Fund	$ 2,803,944

Section 4. The following amounts in the proprietary-type funds are projected expenses for Fiscal Year 2016 and are provided for informational purposes:

Electric Fund	$ 55,169,197
Waterworks Fund	$ 19,579,503
Emergency Communications District Fund	$ 661,988

Section 5. In order to provide funds to meet the expenditure requirements, the following transfers are projected for Fiscal Year 2016 and are provided for informational purposes:

To General Fund For Tax Equivalent	
From Electric Fund	$ 1,559,300
From Waterworks Fund	$ 1,689,376
To General Purpose School Fund for Operations	
From General Fund	$ 15,280,915
To Debt Service Fund	
From General Fund	$ 4,187,000
To Capital Projects Fund	
From General Fund	$ 350,000
To State Street Aid Fund	
From General Fund	$ 700,000

Section 6. All proceeds received through fines, forfeitures and the disposal of seized goods resulting from the City's drug enforcement program shall be used exclusively for that program. A Special Revenue Fund has been established and any funds expended will be limited to the funds collected for that program.

Section 7. The taxes levied under this Ordinance shall become due and payable, shall become delinquent and shall be subject to penalties, the execution of distress warrants and sale of property levied upon as provided by law.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after adoption on second reading, the welfare of the City of Oak Ridge requiring it.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

_____
Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

_____
Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

_____
Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

Publication Date: _____
Public Hearing: _____
First Reading: _____
Publication Date: _____
Public Hearing: _____
Second Reading: _____
Publication Date: _____
Effective Date: _____

STRIKETHROUGH SHOWING CHANGES

ORDINANCE NO._____

TITLE

~~AN ORDINANCE TO CARRY-OVER A TEMPORARY TAX RATE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, BY IMPOSING A TEMPORARY TAX RATE ON ALL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY, AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.~~

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGAN JULY 1, 2015 BY ADOPTING A BUDGET AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.

WHEREAS, the City Manager, in accordance with the requirements of Article V, Section 10, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, has submitted to City Council a proposed budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year upon which ~~two (2)~~three (3) public hearings were held on June 8, 2015, ~~and~~ June 15, 2015, and July 27, 2015 with the June 15, 2015 and July 27, 2015 public hearings serving as the official Charter required public hearing(s); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of said Charter section, meetings were held with City Council on April 13, 2015 which served to provide guidance to the City Manager on the preparation of the proposed budget, and additional meetings were held on June 15, 2015 and July 21, 2015 to further discuss the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget; and

WHEREAS, City Council met on June 8, 2015, ~~and~~ June 15, 2015, and July 27, 2015 for official consideration and approval of said appropriation ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

Section 1. The budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 submitted to City Council by the City Manager, is hereby adopted.

~~Section 2. In order to provide revenue for municipal purposes, there is hereby temporarily imposed on the value of all property within the City of Oak Ridge as such value has been ascertained by the taxing authority of the City, a temporary levy at the rate of $2.39 upon each One Hundred Dollars' ($100.00) worth of assessed value of all taxable property. This temporary levy to be the estimated tax rate for the tax year 2015 until the State and Roane County complete the five-year re-appraisal process, and the State Comptroller's Office presents a new, certified tax rate to the City of Oak Ridge, after which Council shall amend this ordinance and adopt a permanent levy for the current tax year to replace this temporary tax rate. This temporary levy shall also be imposed upon such assessments as may be certified for tax purposes to the City of Oak Ridge by the State of Tennessee.~~

Section ~~3~~2. In accordance with Article V, Section 13, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, the following amounts shall be and hereby are adopted as appropriations by funds for the operation of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for Fiscal Year 2016:

General Fund, Municipal Operations	$ 25,218,403
General Purpose School Fund	$ 59,591,614
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Golf Course Fund	$ 1,193,049
West End Fund	$ 2,803,944

Section ~~4~~ 3. The following amounts in the proprietary-type funds are projected expenses for Fiscal Year 2016 and are provided for informational purposes:

Electric Fund	$ 55,169,197
Waterworks Fund	$ 19,579,503
Emergency Communications District Fund	$ 661,988

Section ~~5~~4. In order to provide funds to meet the expenditure requirements, the following transfers are projected for Fiscal Year 2016 and are provided for informational purposes:

To General Fund For Tax Equivalent	
From Electric Fund	$ 1,559,300
From Waterworks Fund	$ 1,689,376
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Section ~~6~~5. All proceeds received through fines, forfeitures and the disposal of seized goods resulting from the City's drug enforcement program shall be used exclusively for that program. A Special Revenue Fund has been established and any funds expended will be limited to the funds collected for that program.

~~Section 7. The taxes levied under this Ordinance shall become due and payable, shall become delinquent and shall be subject to penalties, the execution of distress warrants and sale of property levied upon as provided by law.~~

Section ~~8~~6. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after adoption on second reading, the welfare of the City of Oak Ridge requiring it.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

_____
Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

_____
Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

_____
Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

Publication Date: _____
Public Hearing: _____
First Reading: _____
Publication Date: _____
Public Hearing: _____
Second Reading: _____
Publication Date: _____
Effective Date: _____

AMENDED ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO._____

TITLE

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGAN JULY 1, 2015 BY ADOPTING A BUDGET AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.

WHEREAS, the City Manager, in accordance with the requirements of Article V, Section 10, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, has submitted to City Council a proposed budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year upon which three (3) public hearings were held on June 8, 2015, June 15, 2015, and July 27, 2015 with the June 15, 2015 and July 27, 2015 public hearings serving as the official Charter required public hearing(s); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of said Charter section, a meeting was held with City Council on April 13, 2015 which served to provide guidance to the City Manager on the preparation of the proposed budget, and additional meetings were held on June 15, 2015 and July 21, 2015 to further discuss the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget; and

WHEREAS, City Council met on June 8, 2015, June 15, 2015, and July 27, 2015 for official consideration and approval of said appropriation ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

Section 1. The budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 submitted to City Council by the City Manager, is hereby adopted.

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Section 3. The following amounts in the proprietary-type funds are projected expenses for Fiscal Year 2016 and are provided for informational purposes:

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Section 6. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after adoption on second reading, the welfare of the City of Oak Ridge requiring it.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

Publication Date:	05/28/2015
Public Hearing:	06/08/2015
Publication Date:	05/28/2015
Public Hearing:	06/15/2015
First Reading:	06/15/2015
Publication Date:	06/18/2015
Publication Date:	07/17/2015
Public Hearing:	07/27/2015
Second Reading:	07/27/2015
Publication Date:	_____
Effective Date:	_____

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM
15-27

DATE: July 24, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF FY 2016 CITY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

Introduction

An item for City Council's consideration is an ordinance to provide for a budget and appropriations for municipal purposes for FY 2016 by adopting a budget and adopting appropriations.

Summary

The City Council met on July 21, 2015 in a work session to discuss the City budget, exploring final options to address a shortfall as presented in the filed budget of June 1, 2015 by the City Manager. Considerable discussion by the City Council reviewed several options presented by the City Manager to minimize increases above and beyond the proposed certified tax rate.

The memo that was referenced at the work session is attached and outlines several of the considerations discussed.

As proposed, the City Council should now consider the following:

- Non-funding of an equivalent amount of $325,000 representing the cost differential of a 1% COLA for School employees (proposed at 3% by the BOE; City employees COLA stands at 2%)
- A $1.00 charge per month on the Sanitation rate to begin a transition to a full user fee program for Sanitation services
- Reinstate Healthy Start Services at an amount of $20,712
- Removing funding of $100,000 for Stormwater Improvements
- Recognizing $220,000 in new growth and accommodating in property tax revenue structure

Recognizing that the City of Oak Ridge is still in a period of slightly increased Anderson County commercial growth and declining sales taxes generated in Roane County, the City of Oak Ridge is adjusting its financial structure to focus on mission and basic services. The budget is a one year "roadmap" for the 2015-2016 timeframe, but further impacts are aligned in the future. A surge in building permits for the Oak Ridge – Main Street project will occur during this period, but this will decline in the following year unless further follow-up growth occurs. The new certified tax rate will provide some assistance in City finances as we adjust, but additional sales taxes will not be realized from the Main Street Project until Spring 2017, which is the target I am encouraging the City Council to keep its eye upon.

We look forward to discussing these amendments to the proposed FY 2016 Budget and ultimately adopting the amended appropriation ordinance.

Mark S. Watson

Mark S. Watson

Attachments

CITY OF
OAK RIDGE

POST OFFICE BOX 1 • OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831-0001

DATE: July 19, 2015

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager MSWatson
Janice McGinnis, Finance Director

SUBJECT: FY 2016 CITY BUDGET

On June 1, 2015, the City Manager presented a budget for filing with the City Clerk's office that provided an expenditure plan for the upcoming fiscal year, which technically started on July 1, 2015. Due to unplanned difficulties with developing a certified tax rate for Oak Ridge, full adoption of a budget has not been completed. However, required public hearings and advertising in accordance with Tennessee statutes will be completed with a second reading of an adoption ordinance. Oak Ridge is unique because our tax rate must be coordinated with the appraisal processes of two counties—Roane and Anderson.

The proposed budget currently contains costs for all municipal operations and utilities, as well as proposed costs for Oak Ridge Schools operations. As a municipal corporation, the City basically operates five businesses: Waterworks Fund, which includes sewage and potable water, both treatment and distribution; the Electric Fund and its distribution; the Oak Ridge School Fund and a major contribution of City monies for that operation; and the City General Fund, primarily supported by sales and property taxes. Due to tight state restrictions, these funds are to remain separate and must generally pay for use of each areas services.

The budget as it now stands and as transmitted by the Board of Education and the City Manager is out of balance, with respect to projected revenues in the General Fund. All other funds have been presented with a balanced budget for the coming year. At present, there is a shortfall of revenues for the School budget at $651,613, while the City General Fund also included an increase to provide $100,000 in funding for implementing initial stormwater improvements for the City. Based on the prior budget, the equivalent of this amount the Council was considering was an eight-cent increase above and beyond the earlier rate of $2.39 per $100. Since the announcement of the certified tax rate and tax roll information, our new certified rate to be considered is $2.52 per $100 value. If the full School/City budgets were adopted as is, the rate would be $2.58 per $100 value.

The City Council Budget Committee under the chairmanship of Councilman Chuck Hope expressed a desire to (1) keep School Maintenance of Effort (MOE) at the same level as last year, (2) retain the present tax rate or new certified tax rate at the current level generating the same amount of money, (3) attempt to provide some capital improvements for the Parks budget, and (4) provide some sort of salary increase for City employees.

The new certified property tax rate, prior to any final adjustments through the appeals process has been provided at $2.52 for Oak Ridge owners, up from $2.39 per $100 valuation. This will mean that Oak Ridge residents who have the same or increased value in their new property assessments will see an increase in their taxes. For instance, a $10,000 increase in residential property value will represent a $3.25 actual tax increase at the 13-cent rate difference. As another example, if your property stayed the same at $100,000 in value, your current taxes at $2.39 would be $597.50. At the new rate of $2.52, taxes for that same house would be $630.00. Again, the impact of 13 cents on the tax rate, or a difference of $32.50.

With the latest recommended changes to the budget and using changes in the City related activities versus cutting all School activities, the proposed School budget would be able to retain $326,613 in available funding as proposed. The revised School transfer (MOE) would now be $14,955,915, or a slight increase for half the current deficit. This change would closely represent the changing dollar value/inflation from the last property tax increase for Schools in 2012.

Options to Address in Proposed Budget:

Personnel increases are different between the School budget and the City budget. School employees are proposed to receive a 3% salary adjustment and City employees are to receive a 2% adjustment. The cost of the additional 1% as proposed by the School budget is $325,000. Matching the two public employee sector's COLAs at this time would be appropriate. Final decisions are up to the Board of Education (BOE) to be made with regard to their personnel. The City Council's action to support or not support the BOE's recommended budget would impact property taxes by a 3.61-cent amount, which is addressed through further reductions and fee increase as outlined below.

Included within the City budget is an amount of $100,000 in new monies for stormwater improvements. Last year, the City submitted plans to begin the development of improvements to the stormwater system. Significant planning was done this past year under the direction of Pat Fallon. However, a funding source needs to be clearly established and identified in the coming year and first steps to be taken. With the announcement of Mr. Gary Cinder's retirement, further advancement of this may be delayed due to this transition. I believe the hiring of staff and funding of minor projects can wait until further direction and Council policy is established after the first of the year. This would eliminate the proposed tax increase of the City Manager of one cent and a reduction in the General Fund.

With the budget this year and next being impacted by long-term construction of Oak Ridge Main Street, new property tax increment will be associated with TIF district and new sales taxes would not be available until the spring of 2017 (assuming the Christmas 2016 targeted opening date). The Board of Education will be using a substantial amount of their fund balance to minimize community impacts this year ($2.1M). These funds can only be used this year and will create an impact in next year's budget if not available, or corresponding reductions by the Schools in operating costs.

The City of Oak Ridge must look at further ways to sustain its services, whether this fiscal year and certainly next year. One service provided by the City in the General Fund is that of Library service. One option for provision of that service is to explore privatization options much as is currently seen in Germantown, Tennessee. Contacts that I have had with such companies and reviews by the company offer a projected ongoing $200,000 in savings to the City if we were to make such a change. An RFP process would need to occur along with further vetting in light of specialty assignments such as the oral

history projects and how they correlate with a private contract. Contacts I have had with the City Manager of Germantown reveal high levels of satisfaction with this arrangement. If approved by Council, I would attempt to begin such a service by January 2016. This could create a savings of approximately $100,000 in this fiscal year and increasing in next fiscal year.

Two members of City Council have expressed reservations about the City Manager recommendation to not include the Healthy Families allocation of $31,850 within the budget. This recommendation has nothing to do with the quality of the program, but everything with projected revenues for the General Fund as a whole. The Healthy Families program involves a small number of clients receiving continuous counseling and support in the raising of children over the lifetime of the child. The goal is to intercept any action that might lead to juvenile delinquency and parental neglect over participation in the program, thus reducing incarceration and other future costs. This program is no longer funded by Anderson County, who was an original funding partner several years ago with Oak Ridge.

Social services such as Healthy Families are paid from General Fund monies and cannot be with paid for from our Utility funds. Some reinstatement of this funding ($20,712) is included in this discussion but full reinstatement would be subject to cutting the General Fund budget further. General Fund services have continued to be reduced for the past five years and we are beginning to impact basic services to the point of cautioning about any further cuts. With this program not being central to the mission of the City, I have now reduced funding for this program as this decision will also be faced next year as School shortfalls are anticipated and will be competing for funding in the FY 2017 budget. I am open to further suggestions to address this $11,138 shortfall.

The Oak Ridge Schools presented three capital needs to City Council as their three top priorities. The middle range expense was a $200,000 roof for Willow Brook Elementary, which is included in the budget and funded. As with the Pre-K building, recent needs have been brought to the City/School's attention on uncompleted work on the Blankenship Field stadium on the Home side. An estimated need of $75,000 has been provided to the City. The $200,000 allocation should address completion before starting on the Willow Brook roof. Health and safety are our most important concerns and the above allocation should be prioritized to allow for this work with the balance reserved for the Willow Brook roof or as can be accommodated with additional capital contributions by the City as the FY 2016 budget is implemented and after the final corrections at Blankenship Field.

In an earlier public budget hearing, Councilmember Callison identified that he noticed the continued General Fund subsidy of trash services. Rather than the sanitation services being completely paid for by a user fee, the City of Oak Ridge provides General Fund support. Our actual total rate on utility bills for Sanitation service is $7.00. The total cost of the subsidy is $1,839,415 from the General Fund.

This would be a major change for our fixed income residents. However, the move to a complete user fee system would place us in a more comparable position with other cities for this service. Our ongoing service contract is very reasonable for a number of years ahead, but the transfer of costs to the utility bill is an accepted method of payment by the general population with an identified service for a specific cost.

A suggested change to address the budget impacts on the tax rate would be to transfer the cost of the fall and spring cleanup events to an additional fee for service. Anticipated savings to the General Fund

would be $143,568 for a full year, with a $1.00 increase in the Sanitation rate. This would be the initial steps to move Sanitation costs to a full user fee basis and would impact the General Fund of the City by freeing this transfer.

One item of note is a reduction in the proposed budget amount for City Special Events. These events include reduced funding for the Secret City Festival, support for other community events, and the July 4th Fireworks. The total allocated amount is $65,000, which was more conducive to a one day festival concept. Last year's amount was $125,000, exclusive of Fireworks and Secret City Summer Sounds. Councilmember Baughn has conducted a task force review of City festivals and events, with primarily a concentration on the Secret City Festival. The City has provided a $50,000 amount available each year for financial support and overtime for required services such as electrical department support. Our July 4th celebration is now a $25,000 Fireworks show and supported entirely by the City. As you can see, we will need more sponsorships or more creative financing of these events. We shall look forward to the report of the Task Force. Our City support commitment to quality-of-life events continues to accelerate as individual groups find it challenging to hold and host events and do it properly. Sponsorships have changed to available monies from the community corporations, but it has retained its free costs excepting for concerts.

The City has seen some growth in its property tax values due to new developments. There will be further appeals on the properties in Roane County sections of Oak Ridge. However, the additional estimates provided by the Finance Director will allow the anticipated revenues to increase by $220,000 based on current tax roll information.

The balance of the budget can be monitored through vacancy salary savings to balance the budget with no tax increase. Key positions such as the Public Works Director will more than likely have a longer period of vacancy that can add to the bottom line. These actions and changes would avoid a tax increase in this current year with the new reappraisal occurring and everyone facing the 13-cent increase. At this time, it is better to let our new appraisals settle out before proceeding with allotting for further expenses.

Numerous impacts are on the horizon:

- A report on the Pre-K School Building and SAB will be presented in August, discussing the need for building options for this program as a priority, which may involve financing.
- Future elimination of the Hall Income Tax by the Legislature.
- Discussion on full segregation of Hotel taxes out of the General Fund and limitations of use by Legislature.
- Current need for capital dollars to repair and upgrade Parks and Recreation facilities ($2.5M).
- Upcoming need for General Ledger software for Utilities and City at large.
- Use of School Fund balance this year will impact budget preparation next year.
- Ongoing capital needs for School and City facilities.
- Water rate increases expected during next five years.
- Declining consumption of water by DOE.
- Depreciation loss from water plant in less than five years ($331K).
- Capital needs at water treatment plant.

- Ongoing water line rehab.
- Wastewater rate increases expected during next five years.
- Any new debt added by City for rehab and repairs and reconstruction.
- Electric operational annual increases from TVA.
- Capital improvements for SCADA system.

As seen above, there are many capital needs for the City and the School entities. Much of this is dependent upon new property growth and active sales tax growth. Careful prioritization of capital projects will be vital to our financial management and sustaining an acceptable level of personnel is important without long-term, ongoing project costs. I look forward to continuing the final FY 2015-2016 budget discussions of this with you.

Budget Summary:

8 Cents On Property Tax Rate	$720,000
Less Tax Roll Changes	($220,000)
Revised Revenue Requirement	$500,000
Less 1% School COLA	($325,000)
Net Difference	$175,000
Less Storm Water Funding	($100,000)
Net Difference	$75,000
Add Healthy Start	$20,712
Revised Revenue Requirement	$95,712
$1 Refuse Collection Fee Beginning November 2005	$95,712
Net	$0

School Transfer Change	326,613
School Revised Transfer	14,955,915

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

15-19

DATE: June 3, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FY2016

Introduction

An item for City Council's consideration is an ordinance to carry-over a temporary tax rate for municipal purposes for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015, by imposing a temporary tax rate on all property within the City, and adopting appropriations.

Review

The overall City budget is presented in an all funds budget amount of $178,560,808, which includes $59,591,614 for the Schools. The City General Fund is offered in an amount of $25,218,403, the Waterworks Fund is budgeted at $19,579,503, and the Electric Fund is offered in an amount of $55,169,197. Other funds are presented in the remaining amount of $19,002,091.

Exact budgetary details are included in the proposed FY2016 City of Oak Ridge Budget.

The goal of this year's budget is to maintain the current level of services while the City continues to see a resurgence of growth and redevelopment in the community. City departments have been asked to retain our current year's levels, review existing budgets and concentrate on the basic mission of local government services. As part of our goals, the City has sought to improve retail opportunities, develop industrial manufacturing jobs, and take steps to maintain, improve, and develop the City's housing stock.

Property taxes will have different concerns for the budget. The City of Oak Ridge has a tax rate that is blended between two counties. Values are established and calculated between the two counties to determine the tax rate against the values that generates the same amount of money as the current year. Discrepancies in Roane County have disrupted that schedule with the completion of assessments anticipated to occur after the new fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2015. This will cause a delay in confirming the tax rate. The City has until June 30, 2015 within which to adopt a budget or a continuing resolution. Presently, plans are being made to adopt the proposed expenditure budget and establishing a property tax rate after the effective tax rate has been received from the State. This is anticipated to be as late as August. In order to establish the tax rate for FY2016, the appropriation ordinance will later be amended to reflect this tax rate.

The City Manager is recommending a tax rate increase of one-cent ($0.01) above the current rate for the coming year to maintain city services. The Oak Ridge Schools' funding request would necessitate an additional seven-cent ($0.07). The tax rate adjustments are based on the one-cent generating an additional $90,000 on a citywide basis.

The Property Tax Revenues presented in the General Fund of the FY2016 Proposed Budget reflect a total of an eight-cent ($0.08) tax increase above current levels.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 3 titled "Levy, due date, and delinquencies," the City of Oak Ridge will carry the current tax rate to the new fiscal year until such time that the City has received a certified tax rate from the State. This carry-over will not include the recommended $0.08 tax increase due to the aforementioned requirements of the City Charter.

Scheduling

First reading of the appropriation ordinance will occur at the June 8, 2015 City Council Meeting, with second reading occurring the following Monday, June 15, 2015. The City has advertised for two (2) public hearings to occur during as part of consideration of the ordinance with the June 15, 2015 public hearing serving as the official Charter requirement.

Recommendation

Adoption of the attached ordinance is recommended.

Mark S. Watson

Mark S. Watson

Attachments

ORDINANCE NO._____

TITLE

AN ORDINANCE TO CARRY-OVER A TEMPORARY TAX RATE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, BY IMPOSING A TEMPORARY TAX RATE ON ALL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY, AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.

WHEREAS, the City Manager, in accordance with the requirements of Article V, Section 10, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, has submitted to City Council a proposed budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year upon which two (2) public hearings were held on June 8, 2015 and June 15, 2015 with the June 15, 2015 public hearing serving as the official Charter required public hearing; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of said Charter section, meetings were held with City Council on April 13, 2015 which served to provide guidance to the City Manager on the preparation of the proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, City Council met on June 8, 2015 and June 15, 2015 for official consideration and approval of said appropriation ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

Section 1. The budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 submitted to City Council by the City Manager, is hereby adopted.

Section 2. In order to provide revenue for municipal purposes, there is hereby temporarily imposed on the value of all property within the City of Oak Ridge as such value has been ascertained by the taxing authority of the City, a temporary levy at the rate of $2.39 upon each One Hundred Dollars' ($100.00) worth of assessed value of all taxable property. This temporary levy to be the estimated tax rate for the tax year 2015 until the State and Roane County complete the five-year re-appraisal process, and the State Comptroller's Office presents a new, certified tax rate to the City of Oak Ridge, after which Council shall amend this ordinance and adopt a permanent levy for the current tax year to replace this temporary tax rate. This temporary levy shall also be imposed upon such assessments as may be certified for tax purposes to the City of Oak Ridge by the State of Tennessee.

Section 3. In accordance with Article V, Section 13, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, the following amounts shall be and hereby are adopted as appropriations by funds for the operation of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for Fiscal Year 2016:

General Fund, Municipal Operations	$ 25,218,403
General Purpose School Fund	$ 59,591,614
Debt Service (Bond and Interest Redemption Fund)	$ 8,415,000
Capital Projects Fund	$ 3,951,910
Drug Enforcement Program Fund	$ 255,200
State Street Aid Fund	$ 1,721,000
Golf Course Fund	$ 1,193,049
West End Fund	$ 2,803,944

Section 4. The following amounts in the proprietary-type funds are projected expenses for Fiscal Year 2016 and are provided for informational purposes:

Electric Fund	$ 55,169,197
Waterworks Fund	$ 19,579,503
Emergency Communications District Fund	$ 661,988

Section 5. In order to provide funds to meet the expenditure requirements, the following transfers are projected for Fiscal Year 2016 and are provided for informational purposes:

To General Fund For Tax Equivalent	
From Electric Fund	$ 1,559,300
From Waterworks Fund	$ 1,689,376
To General Purpose School Fund for Operations	
From General Fund	$ 15,280,915
To Debt Service Fund	
From General Fund	$ 4,187,000
To Capital Projects Fund	
From General Fund	$ 350,000
To State Street Aid Fund	
From General Fund	$ 700,000

Section 6. All proceeds received through fines, forfeitures and the disposal of seized goods resulting from the City's drug enforcement program shall be used exclusively for that program. A Special Revenue Fund has been established and any funds expended will be limited to the funds collected for that program.

Section 7. The taxes levied under this Ordinance shall become due and payable, shall become delinquent and shall be subject to penalties, the execution of distress warrants and sale of property levied upon as provided by law.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after adoption on second reading, the welfare of the City of Oak Ridge requiring it.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

Publication Date: _____
Public Hearing: _____
First Reading: _____
Publication Date: _____
Public Hearing: _____
Second Reading: _____
Publication Date: _____
Effective Date: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM
15-09

DATE: July 23, 2015

TO: Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article II, Section 2, of the Charter of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a special meeting of City Council is hereby called for Monday, July 27, 2015 *immediately following* the 7:00 p.m. City Council Special Meeting. This meeting will occur in the Municipal Building Courtroom, 200 S. Tulane Avenue. This meeting will be limited to consideration on the following:

- A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CERTIFIED TAX RATE OF $2.52 FOR THE RECENTLY COMPLETED GENERAL REAPPRAISAL OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED §67-5-1701.
- AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2015 (JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015) AS $2.52 PER $100.00 OF ASSESSED VALUE.
- A RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE DUE DATE AND DELINQUENCY DATE SCHEDULE FOR PROPERTY TAXES FOR TAX YEAR 2015 (JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015).
- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT OF THE OAK RIDGE ROWING ASSOCIATION'S EFFORTS TO BRING THE 2016 AMERICAN COLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS TO OAK RIDGE.

Mark S. Watson

Mark S. Watson

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM
15-29

DATE: July 24, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

SUBJECT: CERTIFIED TAX RATE

Introduction

An item for City Council's consideration is a resolution establishing a certified tax rate of $2.52 for the recently completed general reappraisal of property within the City of Oak Ridge in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 67-5-1701.

Background

State law requires periodic general reappraisal of all real property within the County, which reappraisal has been recently completed by both Anderson and Roane counties. State law further requires that after such general reappraisal, the governing body shall certify a tax rate.

The State of Tennessee State Board of Equalization has calculated the equalized property tax rate at $2.52 for the City for tax year 2015. The City of Oak Ridge concurs with this rate and is recommending establishing the rate of $2.52.

In accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 67-5-1702, no tax rate in excess of the certified tax rate may be levied without proper advertisement of an intent to exceed the Certified Tax Rate and adoption of a resolution or ordinance after a public hearing.

Recommendation

Approval of the attached resolution establishing a certified tax rate of $2.52 is recommended.

Mark S. Watson

Attachment

NUMBER _____

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CERTIFIED TAX RATE OF $2.52 FOR THE RECENTLY COMPLETED GENERAL REAPPRAISAL OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED §67-5-1701.

WHEREAS, State law requires periodic general reappraisal of all real property within the county, which reappraisal has been recently completed by both Anderson County and Roane County; and

WHEREAS, State law further requires that after such general reappraisal, the governing body shall certify a tax rate which will provide the same ad valorem revenue for the city as was levied during the previous year; and

WHEREAS, since Oak Ridge is a multi-county jurisdiction, the city tax rate to be applied within each county of the city is an equalized tax rate; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee State Board of Equalization has calculated the equalized property tax rate at $2.52 for the city for tax year 2015 and the City concurs with this rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

That in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated §67-5-1701, the Certified Tax Rate for the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for the recently completed general reappraisal of property within the city limits is $2.52.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated §67-5-1702, no tax rate in excess of the certified tax rate may be levied without proper advertisement of an intent to exceed the Certified Tax Rate and adoption of a resolution or ordinance after a public hearing.

This the 27th day of July 2015.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

15-13

DATE: July 24, 2015

TO: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

FROM: Janice E. McGinnis, Finance Director

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2015

Introduction

An item for City Council's consideration is first reading of an ordinance to adopt the property tax rate for tax year 2015, which provides funding for the City's General Fund fiscal 2016 operations and includes the operating transfer to the Oak Ridge Schools.

Review

Because of the delay in receiving the certified tax rate from the State Comptroller's Office due to the reappraisal issues in Roane County, the property tax rate reference was removed from the budget appropriation ordinance so that the City's fiscal 2016 budget adoption process could be completed. Subsequently, the certified tax rate has been received by the City at $2.52 per $100 of assessed value.

The attached ordinance contains the certified tax rate of $2.52.

Recommendation

Any changes from this certified rate resulting from final adoption of budget appropriations will be calculated and provided to City Council for incorporation into the ordinance to establish the property tax rate for tax year 2015. Staff recommends that City Council consider adopting a tax rate that will fund appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016.

Janice McGinnis

Janice E. McGinnis

Attachment

City Manager's Comments:

I have reviewed the above issue and recommend Council action as outlined in this document.

Mark S Watson

Mark S. Watson

7/24/15

Date

ORDINANCE NO. _____

TITLE

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2015 (JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015) AS $2.52 PER $100.00 OF ASSESSED VALUE.

WHEREAS, by Tennessee Code Annotated §6-54-512, any action that levies a tax shall be accomplished by ordinance of the municipal governing body; and

WHEREAS, the City has received an equalized property tax rate of $2.52 from the State of Tennessee State of Board of Equalization, which is the certified tax rate; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to adopt the certified tax rate as the property tax rate for Tax Year 2015 (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

Section 1. The property tax rate for the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for Tax Year 2015 (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015) is $2.52 per $100.00 of assessed value.

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after adoption on second reading, the welfare of the City of Oak Ridge requiring it.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

First Reading: _____
Publication Date: _____
Second Reading: _____
Publication Date: _____
Effective Date: _____

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

15-14

DATE: July 24, 2015

TO: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

FROM: Janice E. McGinnis, Finance Director

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A DUE DATE AND DELINQUENCY DATE FOR PROPERTY TAX YEAR 2015

Introduction

An item for City Council's consideration is a resolution to establish the due date and delinquency date for property taxes for tax year 2015.

Review

Because of the delay in receiving the certified tax rate from the State Comptroller's Office due to the reappraisal issues in Roane County, the City was unable to bill property taxes for tax year 2015 in time to meet the due date of July 1 and delinquency date of after August 31st as contained in City Code §5-102.

When it became apparent that property tax due and delinquency dates could not be met for tax year 2015, City Council approved at final reading at the June 15, 2015 City Council Meeting, an ordinance to amend City Code §5-102. The amendment allows in the event that the State and/or County appraisal processes and implementation timetables impact §5-102, the Finance Director, with the approval of the City Manager, shall present a modified schedule for tax due date and delinquency date for approval by resolution of the City Council. The attached resolution modifies the property tax due date and delinquency date for tax year 2015 such that property taxes shall become due and payable on September 1, 2015 and shall become delinquent after October 31, 2015. The date modifications only apply to tax year 2015.

Preliminary, City staff is prepared to schedule a special meeting of City Council on August 3, 2015 for final adoption of the ordinance that establishes the property tax rate for tax year 2015. Once this adoption process has been finalized, City staff can begin the process of obtaining the tax roll files from the State for Anderson County and from Roane County to calculate and prepare the 2015 tax bills.

Recommendation

The Finance Director and the City Manager recommend adoption of the modified schedule for tax year 2015 that establishes that property taxes shall become due and payable on September 1, 2015 and shall become delinquent after October 31, 2015.

Janice E. McGinnis

Attachment

City Manager's Comments:

I have reviewed the above issue and recommend Council action as outlined in this document.

Mark S. Watson

Mark S. Watson

7/24/15

Date

NUMBER _____

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE DUE DATE AND DELINQUENCY DATE SCHEDULE FOR PROPERTY TAXES FOR TAX YEAR 2015 (JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015).

WHEREAS, State law requires periodic general reappraisal of all real property within the county, which reappraisal has been recently completed by both Anderson County and Roane County; and

WHEREAS, the reappraisal process was not completed in sufficient time for the City to receive the equalized tax rate from the State of Tennessee State Board of Equalization and adopt a property tax rate prior to the July 1, 2015 due date as set forth in City Code §5-102; and

WHEREAS, in the event the reappraisal process impacts implementation of the property tax due date and delinquency date, City Code §5-102 provides the Finance Director shall, with approval of the City Manager, submit a modified due date and delinquency date schedule for approval by City Council by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Director and City Manager recommend modifying the property tax due date and delinquency date for Tax Year 2015 (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

That the recommendation of the Finance Director and the City Manager is approved and the property tax due date and delinquency date for Tax Year 2015 (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015) is modified as follows: property taxes shall become due and payable on September 1, 2015 and shall become delinquent after October 31, 2015.

This the 27th day of July 2015.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

15-26

DATE: July 24, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2016 AMERICAN COLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION (ACRA) CHAMPIONSHIP

Introduction

An item for City Council's consideration is a resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit a letter of support regarding the Oak Ridge Rowing Associations' (ORRA) efforts for the City of Oak Ridge to host the 2016 American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) Championship in Oak Ridge.

Summary

The City of Oak Ridge received a request from Mr. Jim Rogers, Vice President of the Oak Ridge Rowing Association (ORRA) Board, asking for a letter of support from the City to the ACRA to hold their 2016 Championship in Oak Ridge. The American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) is a not-for-profit association organized for the purpose of supporting intercollegiate rowing through competition and other appropriate activities.

The ORRA is partnering with the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and Visit Knoxville (Knoxville Convention and Visitors Bureau) to submit a proposal to host the 2016 Championship.

This particular championship is significant to the rowing sport as it can be compared to the USRowing Club Nationals, except that this competition is collegiate only.

The 2015 ACRA Championship was hosted by Gainesville, Georgia earlier this year and that event was attended by 61 colleges and included approximately 300 entries. Many of the colleges were of significant distance with some traveling from California and Washington States, as well as the Midwest and Northeast portions of the country.

Based on preliminary schedules received by the ORRA, the event will last a full two days. If the City were to be the host venue for this championship it would help support the local economy, specifically Oak Ridge's restaurants and hotels, not to mention the opportunity that would exist to showcase to the rowing community the remarkable course at Melton Lake Park.

All proposals must be received by the ACRA on or before August 10, 2015 with the letter being included as part of that proposal.

Recommendation

Adoption of the attached resolution is recommended to show support for the ORRA's efforts for the City of Oak Ridge to host the 2016 ACRA Championship.

Mark S Watson

Mark S. Watson

Attachment

NUMBER _____

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT OF THE OAK RIDGE ROWING ASSOCIATION'S EFFORTS TO BRING THE 2016 AMERICAN COLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS TO OAK RIDGE.

WHEREAS, the American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) is a not-for-profit association organized for the purpose of supporting intercollegiate rowing through competition and other appropriate activities; and

WHEREAS, the ACRA holds an annual championship rowing competition; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Rowing Association, in partnership with the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau and Visit Knoxville, is in the process of competing for the 2016 ACRA Championships event to be held in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, not only would this event be beneficial for the local economy, but it would also showcase the City's rowing course at Melton Lake Park; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager recommends City Council's support of the Oak Ridge Rowing Association's efforts toward this event through submission of a letter of support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

That the Mayor is hereby authorized to submit a letter of support on behalf of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to the American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) as part of the Oak Ridge Rowing Association's efforts to bring the 2016 ACRA Championships event to Oak Ridge.

This the 27th day of July 2015.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk