

**June 8, 2016**  
**Budget Committee Meeting #5**  
**City of Gaston**

**Budget Committee Present:** Chairperson David Meeker, Mayor Tony Hall, Jerry Spaulding, Chris Jeffries, Richard Sager, and Don Richter. City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette  
**Absent:** Chris Jeffries and Richard Sager.

**I.** Chair Meeker opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:44 pm.

**II. 2015-2016 Committee Budget Review:** Chair Meeker asked the committee if there were any changes to the budget with Richard Sager wanting to know why the city budget document does not show any payroll expenses in the municipal court line item. Recorder Wenonah Blanchette responded that since the municipal court is a sub-account of the General Fund it is taken exclusively from the General Fund and not broken down further from any sub-accounts. It was requested to for the next fiscal year to appropriate funds exclusively from the Municipal Court.

Budget Committee Chair David Meeker suggested changes are needed for the water to provide funding for the Country Lane Pump Station project. Total project cost is approximately \$110,000. Discussion had on moving monies to pay for the project.

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**III.** The following changes to the budget are as follows:

1. Increase page 8, line by 90,000 from Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance.
  - a. (Transfer of \$33,950 From the General Fund to the Water Fund.)

Motion was made by Richard Sager moved to “send the budget with the changes made tonight for the council for approval tonight” at the tax rate of 6.6146 per 1,000 of assessed value. Jerry Spaulding seconded the motion. Motion carried with aye votes heard from Meeker, Sager, Spaulding, Jeffries, Hall, and Richter. Nay: 0.

No further comments were heard at this time.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Meeker called to close this budget committee meeting at 7:04pm. Meeting adjourned.

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Chairman David Meeker

Attest:

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City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette

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**Richard Sager:** "I have some questions on the budget."

**David Meeker:** "Okay that's good."

**Richard Sager:** "So under municipal court. How come we don't show any cost assigned from Wenonah working the court, towards the court? There's no breakdown on that?"

**Mayor Tony Hall:** "What page is that on?"

**Richard Sager:** "Mine is on page 3. There's no breakdown as far as her time that applies to the court, so I think that's kind of misleading, and I was wondering why that is? Mayor Hall?"

**Mayor Tony Hall:** "I don't know, we'll have to get Wenonah in here."

**David Meeker:** "Well we've never had a breakdown like that, but the municipal court is somewhat a loss."

**Richard Sager:** "You know when you look at the Resolution, we're giving the Recorder a \$3,200 raise, yet were having to hire part time help to help do the job and having to sub out the minutes. If I couldn't do my job, I doubt very much that I'd get a raise if they had to hire outside contractors. I don't understand that at all. If you could explain that Mayor Hall, I'd appreciate it."

**Mayor Tony Hall:** "I can't explain it at this time, but I'll review it-"

**Richard Sager:** "We're having to sub out the minutes and hire part time help and yet we're still were giving a raise, how does that work out, an explanation from you."

**Mayor Tony Hall:** "The Council agreed to sub out the minutes at the past council meeting. So that explains that issue."

**Richard Sager:** "I mean were giving someone's job away for someone else to do and yet their still getting a raise. How does that work?"

**Mayor Tony Hall:** "She isn't getting a raise yet."

**Richard Sager:** "Well you can look at the-you can look at the budget there and look at last years and look at this years, proposed wages. When you look at the Resolution 16-005 and it says changes aren't those increases in cost to the City?"

**Wenonah Blanchette:** "Increases for the line item."

**Wenonah Blanchette:** "Yeah."

**Richard Sager:** "Yes, there you go Mayor Hall."

**Tony Hall:** "So according to Councilman Sager, he sees this as a pay raise."

**Wenonah Blanchette:** "Not a pay raise, but overtime pay. I didn't budget for overtime and I've been doing a lot of overtime."

**Tony Hall:** "Does that answer your question?"

**Richard Sager:** "No it doesn't not at all."

So you're saying overtime pay, are you not on a salary?"

**Wenonah Blanchette:** "No. I've never been on salary and I don't see how this is part of the budget."

**Richard Sager:** "We're budgeting money for overtime pay?"

**Wenonah Blanchette:** "This is not the resolution to be looking at for budgeting. This is for figures for changing line item appropriations because they are over their line items. Because there are some in the water fund that are under line items, there are some-"

**Richard Sager:** "Okay let me go back to my first question Wenonah, how come on the municipal court it doesn't show any of your time as far as the cost to the court."

**Wenonah Blanchette:** "It doesn't go towards any of the court, it's in the General fund, it's not line itemed in the municipal court for City Recorder wage."

**Richard Sager:** "So were doing the court work out of the general fund?"

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “Because the muni court is in the general fund.”

**Richard Sager:** “What I’m saying is your time in municipal court doesn’t show up on any kind of line item, right? So we don’t actually have an accurate count of what the court cost us.”

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “Not for my time associated with the court.”

**Richard Sager:** “Yeah that would be total cost. I would like to see that broke down because we don’t really see what the court costs us and if we were making-originally we were supposed to get things showed, the hour breakdown for Rich and Wenonah, and if we had those we would know, but we don’t get those anymore so, I just think those should be there because the total cost to the court isn’t 18,000. If her time toward the court should be part of the court costs, shouldn’t it?”

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “It’s in the general fund.”

**Richard Sager:** “I wasn’t addressing you!”

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “Oh that’s nice to say.”

**Richard Sager:** “I was addressing Mayor Hall.”

**Tony Hall:** “Well what does the Council think? I mean we can make it clear, if the council thinks it should be part of the municipal court costs. I think that’s perfectly okay with me.

**Richard Sager:** “How do you know if the court is making money or losing money if you don’t have all the chargers associated with the court recorded here.

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “It’s not an accrual basis, it’s an accounting basis.”

**Richard Sager:** “It’s what?”

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “It’s not an accrual basis; it’s an accounting basis, that’s how we budget, inflow and outflows, we don’t find that difference. It’s just how we budget.

**Jerry Spaulding:** “But we could put it in there with no problems couldn’t we?”

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “You mean put a wage for, yeah I think that-”

**Richard Sager:** “Do you document the hours you work towards the court?”

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “I can find that information, but it’s-,”

**Richard Sager:** “So it’s a yes or no, do you document the time-”

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “No I don’t document my hours per hour because there isn’t enough time in a day to go by hour by hour, or by recording everything-“

**Richard Sager:** “It’s a simple yes or no, you don’t have to snap. I asked if you documented the hours for the court. Yes or no. Mayor Hall could you direct the recorder to just answer yes or no.

**Mayor Tony Hall:** “It’s the president of the Council who is in charge of the budget committee meeting, I’m sorry.”

**Richard Sager:** “Mr. Meeker?”

**David Meeker:** “We can slow down the arguments.”

**Richard Sager:** “When I ask a yes or no question, I only need a yes or no answer, I don’t need a tirade.”

**David Meeker:** “Oh this is going really well tonight. Did we get a yes or no answer to that? I mean are you satisfied with that? Should we continue?”

**Richard Sager:** “I think it’s a no, that there’s no recording of the split up of hours.

**Jerry Spaulding:** “It’s not that much of a difference.”

**David Meeker:** “It could be estimated, We’re as close as this budget comes, I mean we can estimate your time. You have a minimum of municipal court time; at least an hour a month. It would be nice to know if it was one hour or 10 hours. It would be helpful. I mean in municipal court, if you look at what it all the cost, I mean it’s just a convenience. It’s not really, we’re locked into in our charter, it’s just a convenience.

**Wenonah Blanchette:** “Well it’s not a problem; I just don’t see the point in continuing to argue about it.

**David Meeker:** “You know when someone asks, they’ll always ask what your labor costs. That’s the biggest variable. I mean municipal court, I mean were not doing anything, we don’t make money from it, we lose, it cost more money to operate. I mean if we can hire temps or whatever, we just need to cut back on our costs. What do you think?”

**Jerry Spaulding:** “So can we agree with a problem with the hours, then?”

**Mayor Tony Hall:** “So do we add that as another line item.”

**Richard Sager:** “How can you add it, if you don’t know what it is Tony? If she doesn’t record her hours as far as working on the court. So if she doesn’t record her hours as for working on the court, we have no idea how much of her wages are for the court.

We can start as of the next budget.

**Jerry Spaulding:** “I don’t have a problem with that.”

**Richard Sager:** “Yeah I don’t want to change it now.”

**Richard Sager:** “So that’s all my questions.”