

May 7, 20234
Budget Committee Meeting #4
City of Gaston
202 1st Street

I. Budget Committee meeting called to order at 5:10PM by William Martin. Those present for the budget committee meeting are:

Margaret Bell-Present
William Martin-Present
Billy Nice-Present
Scott Hoodenpyl-Present
Jerry Hoodenpyl- Present
Don Richter-Present
Bob Dooley-Present
Mary Slocum- Present

II. Recorder Blanchette conducted the roll call with all present except Scott Hoodenpyl called and stated he will not be present and is excused.

Line by Line Description: Chairperson Margaret Bell began reading aloud totals from each column going through. Discussion heard on differential differences for police services; with Deputy McCreary announcing his lieutenant will be arriving at 5:30PM. Sgt Schuster and Lieutenant Cooley.

William Martin turned the meeting over to Lt. Cooley to discuss with Council the breakdown of the proposed figures for 2024-2025 Washington County Sheriff's contract. Items discussed include operations and maintenance (O&M), shift-differential, and providing services for a full-time deputy instead of the .75% that the City is currently paying for this fiscal year. Sgt Schuster discussed inflation increases and changes that continue to occur driving up costs. It was discussed increasing patrol hours from .75% to a full-time deputy and eliminating the shift differential in the upcoming police services proposal. If going to a full-time deputy the sheriff's office will begin charging a vehicle replacement fee of \$6,598 (per year). Costs proposed include:

- .75% Deputy Service without shift differential: \$152,345 a year
- Full Time Deputy Service without shift differential: \$203,037 and additional vehicle fee of \$6,598

The goal would be to increase the hours to full time and not pay for shift differential hours.
Discussion

Motion to leave (the police services without shift differential and .75% hours) as originally proposed and consider the full-time hours for next fiscal year was made by Mary Slocum and Bob Dooley. Those voting Aye: Slocum, Richter, Dooley, and Bell Voting Nay: J. Hoodenpyl, Martin, and Nice. Motion carried.

Motion to rescind the previous motion was made by J. Hoodenpyl with no second heard. Motion failed.

Motion was made by J. Hoodenpyl, proposing the full-time hours, no differential, costs of the vehicle per year seconded by Billy Nice for a total cost for police services of \$209,725. Aye: Hoodenpyl, Nice, Dooley Martin, Slocum and Nay: Bell. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the proposed budget for 2024-2025 as reviewed, sending the proposed budget to the Gaston City Council for approval was made by Don Richter and was seconded by Mary Slocum. Voting aye: Slocum, Richter, Dooley, Martin, Nice, J. Hoodenpyl, and Bell.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill Martin and seconded by Jerry at 6:53PM

Don Richter requested the committee take the drafted Progressive Discipline Policy home for further review and to have Council approve the policy May 21, 2024, the next regular Council meeting.

Chairperson Margaret Bell

Attest: _____
City Recorder/Budget Officer Wenonah Blanchette