**BUDGET MINUTES**

**FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 21, 2024**

The budget meeting of the Mandeville City Council was called to order at 6:01 pm followed by a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll call.

**ROLL CALL- present:** Jason Zuckerman,Jill McGuire, Cynthia Strong-Thompson, Kevin Vogeltanz, Scott Discon.

**Absent**: None

**Also present**: Clay Madden, Mayor; Jessica Farno, Finance Director; Kathleen Sides, Senior Accountant; Keith LaGrange, Public Works Director, Cara Bartholomew, Planning and Development Director; David LeBreton, Digital Engineering

Ms. Farno announced the City would be using the SLFRF funds of $4,600,000 for revenue replacement, under the provision of Government services.

Richard Dennie, 536 Lafitte St, stated some questions he had and thought they would be answered during later discussion.

Jeff Lyons, 515 Lamarque St, stated the questions received by the City from the citizens should have been read and answered first incase public had further questions. He stated he did not like the amount spent on Legal or Finance. He also inquired about an update on the Briggs/ City issue.

Glen Runyon, 408 Venus Dr, stated the current year budget went from a $5,600,000 surplus to a $2,500,000 dollar deficit before the $4,600,000 SLFRF funds. He didn’t think the City was doing a good job.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion of Ordinance 24-22; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS RELATIVE TO AND FOR ADOPTION OF THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024- 2025; AND TO ESTABLISH THE ADMINISTRATION OF EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. (Councilman Zuckerman, At-Large)

2. Discussion of Ordinance 24-23; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS RELATIVE TO AND FOR ADOPTION OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; AND TO ESTABLISH THE ADMINISTRATION OF EXPENDITURES THEREOF AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. (Councilman Zuckerman, AtLarge)

Cynthia Strong- Thompson read off the questions on the letter from the citizens and all were answered with little extra discussion.

Rhonda Alleman, 1413 Rue Bayonne, stated the CPA consultant had advised to use 2.5% for Sales Tax projection but the former Council used 5%. She also said there was a requested amendment that was never made. Mr. Zuckerman stated the budget amendment would not have helped unless there was an offset of expenditures for the same amount.

Rebecca Rohrbough, 2525 Lakeshore Dr, verified when the $4,600,000 would be reflected and requested funds be allocated to replanting trees. Ms. Sides stated there was $25,000 in the budget that can be used for that purpose. Ms. Rohrbough suggested a re-allocation of Sales Tax be done.

Some Operating budget line items discussed were computers, legal fees, garbage collections and the cemetery.

Mr. Vogeltanz spoke on a budgeted project with a drainage pipe that lays on private property in Old Golden Shores and said once the legal issuers were worked out, work would begin.

Mr. Vogeltanz spoke about the Mayor’s salary and thought him “woefully underpaid”. He said he would be proposing an amendment to raise the salary to $140,000 and the Mayor would retain all of his current benefits.

Mr. Discon stated that money should be added to the Economic Development budget. There is currently none and he would like $20,000. Mayor Madden proposed possible partnerships with private business owners to beautify barren parking lots.

Charitable donations were again discussed. Mr. Zuckerman suggested removing that line item and doing a budget amendment if money is donated.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Ms. Strong- Thompson, second by Ms. McGuire and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm.