Georgetown City Council
Budget Workshop
May 31, 2011
5:30 p.m.

The Georgetown City Council Budget Workshop was called to order by Mayor Everette Varney with all members present, David Lusby arriving at 5:38 and Kelly McEuen arriving at 5:42 p.m.

1. **2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 11-003 Temporary Workers:**

Laurie Raisor, Deputy City Clerk, presented the *second reading of an ordinance amending the employee handbook.* **Motion Councilman Thompson, second by Councilman Penn to approve Ordinance No. 11-003. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. **Resolution #11-006 –Approval of Neace Lukens Contract:**

Tabled, until next meeting.

3. **Public Comments on Mayor's Proposed Budget FY 2012:**

Harold Jessie, citizen, spoke to council concerning the proposed tax increase in the 2011-2012 city budget. Mr. Jessie suggest the council choose the "Right Size Budget" for the city instead of the bone marrow or the mayor proposed budget and that with the economy it is not the right time to increase taxes. Mr. Jessie stated the city and the private sector needs to work together and that the private sector is not against city employees. Mr. Jessie also requested council let citizens know where they stand on the budget and that he realizes being on council is a tough job. Mayor Varney stated city employees have not had a raise in years and have had their benefits decreased for the past four years. Councilman Penn requested suggestions from Mr. Jessie for the budget.

Steve Price, citizen, suggested to council the city not mow city owned property and start using the grass for compost and fertilizer. Mr. Price also suggested the city could save money by eliminating Building Inspectors and limiting inspections.

4. **Map Hearing:**

Mayor Varney called to order the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. to receive comments on the proposed use of Municipal Aid Funds and Local Government Economic Assistance Program Funds for fiscal year 2012. Mayor Varney asked if anyone wished to make a comment or submit a written comment, with no comments written or oral Mayor Varney closed the hearing at 6:02 p.m.

5. Consideration of the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012:

Robert Bruin, Fire Chief, presented a video to council expressing the importance of time in the fire department. The video demonstrated the difference in time when a flashover (everything burns) occurs in a "Legacy Room" (29.25) and a "Modern Room" (3.40). Chief Bruin stated there is a big difference and that timing is everything. Chief Bruin presented pictures to council showing the rust and holes in the two fire trucks he is requesting to replace that are more than fifteen years old (Engine#1 1994 and Tower #1 1996). Councilman Lusby questioned having four men per truck, stating he was not sure the city could afford this. Chief Bruin stated with vacation, sick time, etc, there has only been 2 shifts in the past 133 days where there has been four men on a truck and that they follow the recommendation of the National Fire Protection Association. Councilman Lusby stated Morehead has a volunteer fire department, but then stated this is not what he is suggesting for Georgetown. Chief Bruin stated Morehead's Volunteer Fire Department takes 20 minutes to respond to a car fire and that Morehead's population was 8,000. Chief Bruin stated going to a volunteer fire department would be a step back for Georgetown.

Greg Reeves, Police Chief, presented a packet and video on an actual domestic call the Georgetown Police Department responded to, when an officer was shot showing the need for backup and qualified officers. Chief Reeves expressed the departments need for officers (to be fully staffed at 50), new police cruisers (17), building for the police department and better pay and benefits to be able to retain qualified employees. Chief Reeves stated the city's population has doubled since 1996, but there are the same amount of Officers (44). Councilman Penn, Singer and Thompson questioned the police department funding the school crossing guards and asked if the city could be reimbursed by the school system. Mayor Varney stated he thought it was a Kentucky statute that the city pays~~,~~ pay crossing guards. He will verify this. Mayor Varney also stated that government exists for services, not for profit.

Jebb Warner, Georgetown/Scott County 911 Director, requested funding for the 911 centers technology infrastructure that allows dispatchers to communicate with all emergency services (fire, police, EMS, sheriff, etc). Mr. Warner stated the importance of communication with all agencies and the need for up keep on all computers, software, etc. Mr. Warner stated at this time he was fully staffed and his overtime had dropped.

Dave Sloane, Georgetown/Scott County EMS Director, presented a service overview worksheet to council for current staffing, unit location, service areas, average emergency response times and return income through billing. Mr. Sloane also expressed the importance of dispatch for emergency responders.

Sgt.Don Mathers, Employee Relations Task Force, presented a letter to council stating that as taxpayers the task force is not in favor of paying any more taxes than it takes to properly run the city. But if raising the payroll tax half of one percent(.05%) will ensure we have the emergency services the citizens need, then it should be done. Saving a dollar today knowing it will cost you five dollars next week is not saving anybody money. Councilman Penn stated special interest groups raise taxes to support their cost, but don't want the city to do the same. Councilman McEuen stated following plans to move forward is the best investment for the city.

Motion by Councilman Thompson, second by Councilman Penn to adjourn. **Motion unanimously approved.**

APPROVED BY:

Everette Varney

Everette Varney, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:

Tracie Hoffman Chew

Tracie Hoffman Chew, City Clerk/Treasurer