

City of Live Oak
Special Called City Council Meeting
September 27, 2016

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The Live Oak City Council met for a regular City Council meeting, Tuesday, September 27, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall located at 101 SE White Ave., Live Oak, Florida 32064. The following officials were present: Council President Councilman Keith Mixon, Councilman Bennie L. Thomas, Councilman John W. Yulee Sr., Councilman David Burch, Councilman Frank Davis, City Manager Ron Williams, and City Clerk John Gill. Absent was City Attorney Fred Koberlein, and Mayor Garth R. Nobles,

Council President Keith Mixon called the meeting to order and then briefly discussed the public comment policies. Councilman Mixon discussed that 22 individuals had signed up to address the City Council, and then turned the floor over to the first individual listed, Ms. Ella Mae Ross (210 2nd St. NE., Live Oak, FL). Ms. Ross addressed the Council concerning an increase in her utility bill. Councilman Mixon then stated that the Council would direct the city manager to contact Ms. Ross regarding her utility bill.

Mr. Larry Wheeler Jr. (1805 S. Ingless Street, Live Oak, FL) then addressed Council with an inquiry as to why the city was seeking to increase the utility rates.

Mr. Ron Williams, City Manager, then discussed that the city is experiencing a 23% water loss, meaning there is no account as to where this water is being lost. In addition, the city has conducted a rate study that compared the utility rates of other similar cities, and how utility rates affect grant opportunities. As a result, it was determined that the city's rates are too low. A Rate Revenue Improvement Plan was then put forth as a recommendation to the City Council. This recommendation now appears before the Council as Ordinance 1399. Which includes a three-year phased increase.

Councilman Thomas then questioned Mr. Williams how the city would assist people affected by a mishap (excessive water loss) with their utilities and are then unable to pay their utility bill.

Mr. Williams discussed that there is a system in place, which proceeded his service with the city, that would work with an individual on their utility bill.

The following individuals then addressed Council with concerns and inquiries regarding the proposed ordinances 1397, 1398, and 1399. As well as, concerns for the services currently being provided, concerns for residents on fixed income, storm water drainage, mosquitos, roadways, budget requests/acquisition of city manager vehicle, merging with the county for fire services, façade grants, the CRA District, land development regulations, infrastructure, city water loss/waste, and the outsourcing of the Public Works Department.

- John D. Robinson-1600 Helvenston Street, Live Oak, FL
- Sabrina Wheeler and Florine Wilson (Declined speaking at the podium)
- Erica Williams, speaking on behalf of Catherine Cason-PO Box 433, Live Oak, FL
- Tim Wiggins (Had signed up to speak but was not present)
- Janie Philpot-858 SW. 7th St., Live Oak, FL
- Linda Owens and Vanessa Brown-1602 SW. 7th St., Live Oak Florida

Mr. Williams and Interim Finance Director Joanne Luther then discussed that a large percentage of residents use a low amount of water services and that the proposed millage increase would address neighborhood conditions (infrastructure needs and street/storm water/utility repairs).

Continuing, Mr. Williams then addressed the concerns over the level of services provided, stating that he had requested information from OMI concerning their staffing and that he would return to counsel with this information.

Public Comments Continued:

- Roy and Ruby Jennings (Were not present)
- Barry Hicks-611 SW. Houston Ave., Live Oak, FL
- Carol Quillen (Did not speak at the podium)
- Gale Tooten (Did not speak at the podium)
- Rosetta Newsome (Did not speak at the podium)
- Marlon M. Ivey-resides in the county but has businesses within the city
- Marion Gross-10309 108th Pl., Live Oak, FL
- Douglas (Was not present)
- Horn (Was not present)
- Merdean Williams-322 Houston Ave. Live Oak, FL

The question arose concerning the boundaries of the CRA District, which Councilman Mixon, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Curtis all spoke to the efforts being made to expand the CRA District and the complications that had occurred. It was then identified that the City Council would have to approve funding for a study on expanding the CRA district. Moving forward, it was discussed that the city now had a grant writer that would begin working on this project, after completing his current grant-writing project for city roadways.

Public Comment Continued:

- Delores Perry-12910 US Highway 90 lot number 120, Live Oak, FL
- Curtis Thomas-1405 8th St. SW., Live Oak, FL
- Patricia Ann Jones-636 SW. Church Ave. Live Oak, FL
- Arlene Ivey Smith-203 Shelby Ave., Live Oak, FL
- Tanequa Owens-514 SW. Lincoln Ave., Live Oak, FL
- Maurice Perkins-505 Lafayette Ave., Live Oak, FL

At this time, Mr. Williams addressed concerns for the storm debris pickup and that OMI had assured him that by September 30, all the storm debris would be picked up. Mr. Williams discussed that if this were not the case the city would be at a strong position to address their lack of performance, should they fail to meet this deadline.

Councilman Davis then discussed his concerns regarding utility meters being read, improvements to the infrastructure system, the fire assessment study, and increases.

Councilman Thomas then discussed his concerns regarding the need for budgetary cuts, using the OMI contract as an example. Councilman Thomas then discussed the need to "Go back to the drawing board" on the budget.

- Jackie Jones-655 Miller St., Live Oak, FL (Presented a letter from her sister Anita)

Councilman Thomas then inquired if the merging of the fire services had become a dead issue. Mr. Williams stated that the Council had directed him to meet with the County at the beginning of the new fiscal year two determine an amicable agreement.

Councilman Davis then discussed his concerns for the proposed increases and the need for relief for the residents.

At this time, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

Councilman Mixon then turned the floor over to Mr. Williams who presented the first agenda item regarding the **final** reading of Ordinance 1397, an ordinance adopting the City of Live Oak FY 2017 millage rate. The clerk then read the title of the ordinance into the record.

ORDINANCE 1397
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND PRESCRIBING THE MILLAGE TO BE LEVIED BY THE
CITY OF LIVE OAK, FLORIDA, FOR THE MUNICIPAL PURPOSE FOR FISCAL YEAR
2016-2017

Councilman Burch moved to approve Ordinance 1397, which Councilman Yulee seconded.

Mr. Marlon Ivey inquired why Councilman Burch and Councilman Yulee approved the increase in the millage rate. Councilman Burch then discussed the budgetary needs in addressing residents' concerns.

Councilman Davis then reiterated that he would like to see some relief provided to the taxpayers.

The vote was then taken and the motion carried 3 to 2, with Councilman Davis and Councilman Thomas dissenting.

Councilman Mixon then turned the floor over to Mr. Williams who introduced the next agenda item regarding **final** reading of Ordinance 1398, an ordinance adopting the City of Live Oak FY 2017 budget. The clerk then read the title of the ordinance into the record.

ORDINANCE 1398
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF LIVE OAK FLORIDA'S OPERATING
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.

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Councilman Burch moved to approve Ordinance 1398, which Councilman Mixon seconded.

The vote was then taken and the motion carried 3 to 2, with Councilman Davis and Councilman Thomas dissenting.

Councilman Mixon then turned the floor over to Mr. Williams who introduced the last agenda item regarding the **final** reading of Ordinance 1399, an ordinance of the City of Live Oak, Florida amending the rates for water, sewer, tap, gas and miscellaneous service fees. The clerk then read the title of the ordinance into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 1399

AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING UTILITY RATE FEES FOR CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE II WATER- SECTION 78-34 WATER TAPPING FEE, SECTION 78-35 PROPERTY OWNED BY CITY, SUPPLYING WATER OUTSIDE CITY AUTHORIZED, SECTION 78-36 WATER RATE SCHEDULE, SECTION 78-37 DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS, PENALTIES, AND REMEDIES, ALL REFLECTED IN APPENDIX A; AND CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE III SEWERS GENERALLY- SECTION 78-84 TAPPING FEE, SECTION 78-86 SEWER SERVICE CHARGES; AND CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE IV GAS- SECTION 78-121 DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS, PENALTIES, REMEDIES, SECTION 78-123 TAPPING FEES, SERVICE CALL CHARGES, TURN-ON FEES, SECTION 78-124 GAS RATE SCHEDULE, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LIVE OAK; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Burch moved to approve Ordinance 1399, which Councilman Yulee seconded. The vote was then taken and the motion carried 3 to 2, with Councilman Davis and Councilman Thomas dissenting.

With no further public comments, the meeting was adjourned.

Councilman Mixon
City Council President

Attest:
Mr. John Gill
City Clerk