

Floyd County Council
Public Hearing
Minutes
July 11, 2023
5:00 P.M.
Pineview Government Center
Commissioners Meeting Room #104

Denise Konkle called the Public Hearing to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*
Roll Call – Full Quorum

Also Present- Attorney, Bridgett Cantrell; Sheriff, Steve Bush; Clerk, Danita Burks and Treasurer, Steve Burks

Public Hearing - Judicial LIT

Eric Reedy, Reedy Financial Group, explained the primary source of revenue for counties is property tax with local income tax as secondary for funding budgets.

Brendan McCormick, asked what this increase in tax is paying for. Denise Konkle stated the expenses have outpaced the revenues. They need to find a permanent source of revenue. She said employee pay and benefits make up 85% of the budget and those expenses keep going up. Inflation caught up in regards to the salaries because of years of not giving raises, so last year they hired consultants to analyze and recommend fair salaries. She promised employees that they would try to continue to keep pace with surrounding counties based on the study done by professionals. Jim Freiberger added when the raises were given they gave the raises first and then gave a COLA on top of that instead of giving the COLA first and then give the difference as a raise. He stated it was an additional that was not necessary.

PJ Moore asked about an efficiency study to see where cuts can be made. He stated he has brought a few firms willing to look at the County operations for the efficiency study but the Council dropped the ball. He questioned about the County vehicles being used for personal activity.

Elaine Jenkins stated they need to consider people on fixed income.

Dale Mann stated they need to do an efficiency study before asking tax payers for more money. He is proud Floyd County is one of the lowest in property taxes and would like to stay that way. He questioned some employees getting large raises.

Chris Coots stated, in business, if you couldn't meet the expenses, you have to find other ways to get things done with raising prices. Government is the same. He agrees with efficiency studies and salary comparisons.

Scott Fancher stated there is \$4 million being generated from the hospital sale. He suggested to evaluate their priorities, that it is not appropriate to ask tax payers to fund the shortfall.

Mark Thomas asked if everyone got a raise and a COLA. He asked why this doesn't go to a public vote.

Steve Burks asked Eric Reedy if they have drilled down on the actual numbers on new construction. Mr. Reedy stated he looks at Gateway and has not received any information. Denise Konkle stated there is a tax cap.

Heather Peters stated this is a new tax. This seems very rushed and DLGF has not defined the rules. This tax concentrates on the Judges, court reporters and court clerks, not on probation or any other area and only 50% of their wages can be claimed. She stated she believes this body does not reflect the will of the people. If it did, this would not be an issue.

Darrell Henson, stated the Council hears their complaints but then does what they want. He stated the citizens keep being asked to get less for more and this is not sustainable.

Denise Konkle stated the Reedy group has reached out to DLGF and does not agree with Ms. Peters about the parameters.

Danny Short stated it has not been determined what is included in the Judicial LIT. According to Mr. Short, Senator Travis Holdman, author of the bill, stated that it is very limited what is included. There may be more increases when it is determined that other departments can't be included. He said this Council put the cart before the horse by giving raises without knowing how they would pay for it. He said their choices are to cut expenses or raise taxes.

Jim Freiberger stated the sale of the hospital has kept the tax rates down.

Denise Konkle is proud of hiring consultants. Prior to the Reedy Group the county just budgeted year by year and did not have any projections for the coming years.

Dale Bagshaw stated the CCD is for renovations to the City County Building. It has failing HVAC, elevator systems and could be shut on any day. Mr. Bagshaw stated there are things the county government are compelled to do but is left to figure out how to pay for it. Any time there are cuts there are consequences.


Connie Moon thanked everyone for coming. She said they need to hear what the public thinks.


Motion to adjourn. Moved by Danny Short. Seconded by Dale Bagshaw. Motion passed unanimously.


FLOYD COUNTY COUNCIL



Denise Konkle, President



Brad Striegel, Vice President

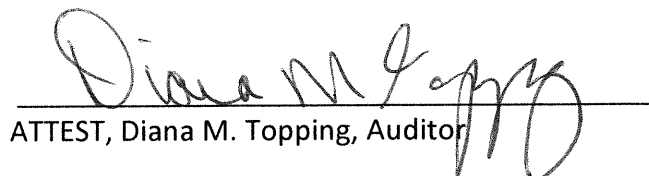

Connie Moon, member


Dale Bagshaw, member


Danny Short, member


Jim Freiberger, member


Tony Toran, member


ATTEST, Diana M. Topping, Auditor