

# Budget and Audit Committee

## Minutes

### City of Jackson

09.23.21

#### I. Call to order and welcome

Chairman Paul Taylor called the meeting to order. Committee members Johnny Dodd, Paul Taylor, and Ross Priddy were present. Absent were Mark Johnstone, Ron Tharpe, and Andrew Long. In attendance from the City were Bobby Arnold – Finc. Dept., Chief Julian Wiser – Fire Police Dept., Mayor Conger, and Sandy Maxwell recorded the minutes. The full video of the meeting can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/CityofJacksonTN731> (time-frame reference).

II. **Approval of Minutes:** August 24, 2021, minutes were approved as presented.

#### III. Information

##### a. **FY21 Revenue Report - Bobby Arnold (00:27 – 2:56)**

Chairman Taylor asked Mr. Bobby Arnold to give a run-down of the numbers.

**Report:** Mr. Arnold said sales tax revenues remain strong so far for this fiscal year; local sales tax is up 8%, and state sales tax is up 18%, an overall increase of 10.5% for these first two months of this fiscal year.

Mr. Taylor asked about the property tax collection. Mr. Arnold said the Revenue Dept. is fully staffed, they are ready for statements to be mailed out any day now, and we can start processing payments on October 1.

#### IV. Business

##### a. **FY22 Budget Amendment Review**

##### i. **Police Dept. Patrol Pay Scale Comparison - Mayor Conger/Chief Wiser (03:00 – 21:20)**

Mr. Taylor asked Chief Wiser from the Jackson Police Department to present the pay scale increase request. The chief reviewed the written proposal, titled Police Wage Progression

Proposal, with the committee. He stated there are a few reasons for the pay increase. He said JPD is not competitive in its pay scale, and the increase would allow JPD to recruit and retain its officers. The new pay scale would begin new officers at \$20.90 instead of \$17.06, and they would top out at ten years instead of 14 years. Sargents and Lieutenants would get a flat \$2,500.00. Captains and above would not receive an increase.

After some discussion, Chair Taylor motioned to recommend these pay raises to City Council, a second by Johnny Dodd, all voting aye, motion passed unanimously.

**ii. Street Department Capital – Loader - Mayor Conger (21:30 – 25:20)**

Mayor Conger explained that the Street Department needs to purchase a different piece of equipment (a loader) instead of the paver. The paver is already in the capital budget, so we will essentially be moving it from one line item to another, and it will only require a single reading.

After some discussion, Chair Taylor motioned to recommend this to City Council, a second by Ross Priddy, all voting aye, motion passed unanimously.

**iii. Public Defender – Mayor Conger (25:30 – 26:42)**

Mayor Conger explained, according to the Tennessee Codes Annotated, that anytime a municipality increases funding at the DA's office; in our case, adding a Gang Prosecutor, it has to provide a match at 75% at the public defender's office. He reminded everyone that the Tennessee Codes did not apply for the previous Gang Prosecutor because it was funded through a grant; now, we (the City of Jackson) are funding this position, so the code does apply.

**b. Solid Waste Inspector Position Discussion (26:44 – 29:20)**

Mayor Conger explained that interviews should be happening soon. He also reminded everyone that this new position would not impact the budget because H & S are already down employees.

- c. FY23 Budget Calendar Discussion**
- d. 5-Year Capital Plan Update**
- e. American Rescue Plan Local Government Distribution Planning - Paul Taylor  
(29:21 – 40:42; items C, D & E were intermingled during the discussion)**

Chairman Taylor gave everyone a handout of the proposed dates and scheduled topics. He asked the committee to continue to think of ways to refine this process. Mayor Conger spoke about some of the uses for ARP money. Mr. Arnold gave some great insight into the details that the State Comptroller's Office shares with municipalities through webinars.

- f. Regular meeting time – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month @ 11:00 AM (40:43 – 41:15)**
  - i. October 14, 2021**

Chairman Taylor reminded everyone that our next meeting would include quarterly reviews.

**V. Adjourn**