

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF MONTVERDE  
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**September 9, 2015**

The Town of Montverde met in special session on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium.

**Council Present:**

President Glenn Burns  
Council Vice President Jim Pierce  
Billy Bates  
Joe Wynkoop

**Council Absent:**

Arthur Nix

**Staff Present:**

Graham Wells, Town Clerk  
Terry Burden, Public Works Director  
Mary Gillis, Finance Director

Mayor Bennett was not at the meeting, as he had surgery earlier in the day. Council President Glenn Burns called the meeting to order at 6:30 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was performed, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Council President Glenn Burns announced that this was the First Public Hearing on the Budget for FY 2016 for the Town of Montverde. He opened the floor for public comment.

*Richard Collins, Magnolia Terrace.* Mr. Collins had a number of questions:

1. Mr. Collins noted that there was a wording error on page 2.3. Finance Director Mary Gillis explained that he had an old draft of the document, and that wording error was not in the new draft.
2. He said that it was confusing to have all the funds in the document, and hard to determine which funds pay for what. Councilman Pierce said that municipal funds are very different than normal business operations.
3. Mr. Collins noted that on the page for Town Elections, it stated "funds for Town Election, if necessary." He said that we now know that there will be an election, so this wording should be

changed. Councilman Pierce replied that at the time this document was prepared, it was unknown whether there would be an election.

4. Mr. Collins noted that the wording for "off-duty detail" should be changed to "extra patrol".
5. Mr. Collins stated that Reserves are not Expenditures, and asked why they were included. Mary Gillis stated that Reserves are legally classified as Expenditures. He said this was confusing on several different pages in the document. Council Pierce said that governmental budgets are very difficult, and when he first became Councilman, the process was very difficult, and Council was never quite sure exactly how much money they had. Now he feels like he is getting both detail and a big picture from the budget, and the reason they have meetings like this is to educate the public on a very difficult issue.
6. Mr. Collins said that there was a big increase in health insurance for the Parks Department. Mary Gillis noted that the Town had a new employee who had not opted into the insurance program in the prior year, so she used a conservative estimate.
7. Mr. Collins said there should be a designation for unique items versus items that are recurring every year. Mary Gillis noted that there is a separation of these unique items on the Unfunded Enhancements page.
8. Mr. Collins asked about the increase for the engineers and consultants. Mary Gillis said that there is a historical trend of increase for these expenditures.

Councilman Pierce asked to move forward since Mr. Collins had been talking for an hour and 15 minutes, and Council still had to adopt the millage.

Fire Chief Kevin Rausch asked to address Council. The Chief stated that he had spoken to each of the Councilmen individually about purchasing a new apparatus and refurbishing one of the current trucks. The cost would be over \$132,000. Councilman Burns asked if Council could do this if it is not on the agenda. Mary Gillis stated that Council is approving the millage rate and fund totals tonight. She would need direction as to whether to add this to the budget.

Councilman Pierce said that he has talked to the Mayor about this project, and he is on board with it. Councilman Pierce said that he has spent a couple of hours talking with the Chief on this. The direction to him is solid, and he is good with the project. The only concern he has is the parking of the vehicles. He is happy with the idea of this project because it increases the amount of pump capacity, and that allows us to bill our commercial rates at a higher level. There are commercial buildings in this Town where the Fire Department can only handle a portion of the building. A new apparatus would get us closer to being able to cover the full buildings, and thus receive higher commercial rate revenue.

The Fire Chief stated that currently, we can charge for 17,500 square feet and with a new apparatus, we can charge for about 40,000 square feet.

Councilman Bates said that his first thought was whether this had to be in the budget if the money was already earmarked in Reserves. Mary Gillis replied that the Chief could bring this back at any time during the year. If Council wanted to make this where the Chief could buy the apparatus on October 1,

then it needed to be included in the budget this evening. The Fire Chief stated that he hoped for the money immediately to secure the truck.

Councilman Wynkoop said that he is not comfortable making a decision tonight as this is the first time he is hearing about it. Chief Rausch stated that he gave Councilman Wynkoop the information two weeks ago, and discussed it with him. Councilman Wynkoop said that he would like more information about the exact number of additional revenues that would be received.

Mary Gillis stated that if Council wanted to give Chief Rausch the ability to purchase the truck as of October 1, then the money would need to be added to the budget tonight. She stated that Council is adopting the budgets in total tonight, so those total numbers would not change. She would need consensus to add the cost to the budget.

Councilman Wynkoop stated that they could move the money into the budget, but that doesn't mean that he can spend it.

Councilman Burns asked if it was appropriate to have four trucks to cover Montverde. Chief Rausch stated that with the increased calls and the varying environment in Montverde, it was necessary to have different types of trucks.

Mary Gillis offered that Council could decide to discuss this at the next Public Hearing, then take the time between now and then to talk to the Chief and get their questions answered. Consensus was to discuss this issue at the next Public Hearing.

**MOTION by Councilman Wynkoop to adopt the millage rate of 2.83 mills, SECONDED by Councilman Bates.**

**For: Burns, Bates, Pierce, Wynkoop**

**Against: None**

**MOTION by Councilman Wynkoop to approve the General Fund, Water Fund, and Fire Fund totals as indicated in the budget document; SECONDED by Councilman Burns.**

**For: Burns, Bates, Pierce, Wynkoop**

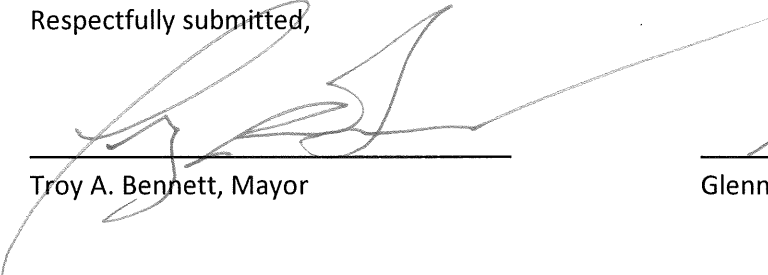
**Against: None**

Councilman Wynkoop announced that the Second Public Hearing will be held on September 23 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Auditorium.

**ADJOURN**


**MOTION to Adjourn by Councilman Pierce; SECONDED by Councilman Bates at 8:02pm. Passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



---


Troy A. Bennett, Mayor



---

Glenn Burns, Council President

ATTEST:



---

Graham Wells, Town Clerk