CITY OF LAHARPE

SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 15, 2024 AT 6:00PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

Ron Knavel Mayor, Ella Mae Crowell

Cynthia Carr City Clerk, Michelle Altis

Sharlyn Thompson

Danny Ware Jr

Call to order

Mayor Crowell called the special meeting to order at 6:00p.m. with 4 council members present.

Phil Jarred with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips was in attendance to discuss the budget and stated the general fund is short $70,000.00, you need more money or less expenses in that fund.

The council stated the sales tax increase from 1% to 1.50% will go on the November ballot, Danny Ware Jr suggested looking into raising that to 2%, Michelle stated she would look into it.

Phil stated the utility funds seem to be holding their own. Mayor Crowell recommended raising the mill levy 7%. Phil mentioned the law enforcement isn’t funded and if you want to have it then you are going to have to come up with a way to pay for it.

Sharlyn Thompson suggested the council start looking at employee benefits, the fire department, possibly raising court costs and dog tags, and looking at raising the electric rates. She stated we need to do something now, not wait for something like this to happen.

Phil recommended Michelle look at the fitness center and reclassify to general fund, and suggested to the council; you can always lower your mill levy at the budget hearing but you can’t raise it.

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to raise the mill levy 10 mills to 74.253 mills. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Ron Knavel made the motion to adjourn. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 7:30pm.

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City Clerk Mayor