

Mayor & Board of Aldermen

Special Call Meeting 6pm

Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2023

Present: Mayor H. Michael Brown
Vice-Mayor Adrian Wiggins
Aldermen Frank Cates, Debbie Hummel, Jeff Fisher and Ken Sutton

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

1. **Call to order by Mayor Brown**
2. **Establish Quorum – All present**
3. **Approval of Agenda**

Alderman Cates made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Wiggins seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

4. **Consideration of New Business Items: Ordinances First Reading**

A. Ordinance 23-11 – Adopting the FY 2024 Annual Operating and Capital Budget; Establishing a Public Hearing date of June 15, 2023.

Mr. Johnson presented a proposed FY24 Budget to the Board. He stated the 3 pools of ARPA money is included in this budget adding the town has made application for a TDEC Grant for funding assistance for the new park, if approval is granted, that money will be allocated toward its construction.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the town has experienced double digit growth in General Fund Sales Tax Revenue over the past three years, therefore a 4% growth was used in projecting the Sales Tax for FY24 Budget.

As for Property tax, the new assessed valuation within the Town of Oakland is \$337 million dollars, 3.4% over last year. The current \$0.4212 property tax will fund the operational aspects of this budget; however, it is being proposed an \$0.08 cent property tax increase, taking the property tax rate to \$0.50 cents with the Board, by resolution, dedicate the .08 cent new tax to the Town Hall/Police Station project. Money is proposed in this budget to begin actual design process, that \$0.08 cents will pay approximately half of cost and the other half will be taken out of the General Fund Balance. This increase is being proposed, as revenue must be identified to move forward with the Town Hall/Police Station Project.

Also being proposed is 3 ½ % across the board salary adjustment. Mr. Johnson noted the town's share of the employee health insurance through the State increased 7.5%. Alderman Sutton expressed concern, the wash in

giving employees 3 ½% salary increase, with medical insurance increasing 7.5%. Future discussion of affects, on the employees related to the 7.5% health insurance increase will be discussed at the next budget work session. Alderman Cates requested information on the number of employees with spouses that work and are on the town's insurance. Vice Mayor Wiggins suggested a report on how many employees are taking advantage of the town's insurance benefits.

Other budget recommendations:

- (A) 2 new fulltime positions, 1 Police Officer and 1 Equipment Operator in the Public Works Department and 2 part-time seasonal Maintenance Workers in Public Works.
- (B) The existing part-time Finance position is not funded in FY24.

Alderman Hummel made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 23-11. Alderman Sutton seconded the motion. Four (4) were in favor and one (1) opposed. Those voting in favor were Aldermen Hummel, Sutton, Cates and Vice Mayor Wiggins. Alderman Fisher opposed. The 1st Reading of Ordinance 23-11 passed.

B. Ordinance 23-12 – Establishing Municipal Property Tax Levy for FY24; Establishing a Public Hearing date of June 15, 2023.

Alderman Sutton made a motion to hear the 1st Reading of Ordinance 23-12.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider an .08 cent increase to the town's current rate \$0.4212: setting the Fy24 property tax at \$0.5012.

Alderman Hummel made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 23-12. The motion failed, due to lack of a second.

Alderman Sutton made a motion to keep the property tax rate at the current amount of \$0.4212. Vice Mayor Wiggins seconded the motion. Roll-call vote resulted as follows: Alderman Cates = yes, Alderman Hummel = No, Alderman Fisher = No, Alderman Sutton = yes and Vice Mayor Wiggins = yes. Three (3) were in favor and two (2) opposed. The 1st Reading of Ordinance 23-12 passed.

5. Consideration of Resolutions

A. Resolution 23-57 Assigning a specific Portion of Property Tax Revenue for Town Hall/Police Department Building Project

This item was withdrawn as the proposed \$0.08 cent increase FY24 property tax did not pass in the 1st Reading of Ordinance 23-12.

B. Resolution 23-58 Authorizing FY23 Street Paving Project Bid Package #2

Vice Mayor Wiggins made a motion to hear.

Alderman Sutton made a motion to approve Resolution 23-58. Vice Mayor Wiggins seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Resolution 23-58 passed.

C. Resolution 23-59 Authorizing a \$10.00 Fee for Town Wide Garage Sale Sponsored by Parks & Recreation Department

Vice Mayor Wiggins made a motion to hear.

Vice Mayor Wiggins made a motion to approve Resolution 23-59. Alderman Hummel seconded the motion. Four (4) in favor and one (1) opposed. Those in favor were Vice Mayor Wiggins, Aldermen Hummel, Sutton and Fisher. Alderman Cates opposed. Resolution 23-59 passed.

6. Consideration of Business Items

A. Authorizing Additional Work for the Town Hall/Police Department Building through Fleming Architecture for Schematic Site Grading and Drainage Plan

Alderman Hummel made a motion to approve fees for service in the amount of \$11,600.00. Alderman Cates seconded the motion. Four (4) were in favor and one (1) opposed. Those voting in favor were Aldermen Hummel, Sutton, Cates and Vice Mayor Wiggins. Alderman Fisher opposed. The motion passed.

B. Consideration of Monument Entrance Signs for Town of Oakland

A suggestion of Vice Mayor Wiggins, Alderman Fisher and Mr. Johnson sketch a couple of drawings and present to the Board for consideration.

C. Consideration of Establishing a Natural Gas Service Department with the Town of Oakland

Mr. Johnson passed out the locations of gas lines. Director Ellis, in speaking with others experienced in setting up a municipal gas system, expresses the town, if not under an agreement with Somerville Gas, has the right to act in moving forward with the Board's wishes. Director Ellis stated Somerville is not going to give it up willingly and it will be expensive task. The Board directed Director to proceed and report back to the Board in July.

D. Mayor Brown stated a Budget Work-Session is scheduled for May 30, 2023 at 7pm.

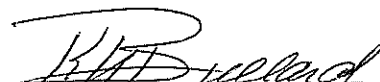
7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Alderman Cates to adjourn the meeting.

Date: May 22, 2023



H. Michael Brown, Mayor



K. Yvonne Bullard, City Recorder