

MINUTES
FOX FIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING – 2024-2025 FY Budget
Village Hall Meeting Room – June 20, 2024 -6:00 PM

Mayor Janice Gregorich called the special meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Those in attendance were Mayor Pro Temp Janet Nauman, and Councilmembers Mary Gilroy and Warren Morgan. Councilmember Don Nelson's absence was unexcused.

1. Public Hearing – 2024-2025 FY Budget

Councilmember Mary Gilroy read the proposed 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance #2024-12. She did not read aloud her Budget Message however a copy of the Budget Message is made part of these minutes as Attachment #1.

Councilmember Gilroy made a motion to open Public Hearing, seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried unanimously.

Leslie Frusco – 7 Hillside Drive had three concerns/questions.

1. She asked for an explanation of a substantial 33% increase being paid to West End Fire Department. Is this due to a rate increase or based on additional housing. She asked what the Village would receive for this increase. She would prefer 24/7 EMS which in her opinion is more important to the Village than fire trucks since we have had only one major fire in the past ten years.
2. Will Moore County be able to handle collection of Village taxes if we do not offer a discount.
3. Is the council still putting additional money into the separation allowance or will it go into a different reserve or contingency, or a new reserve for pickleball maintenance because it will be a fair amount of time before separation allowance is necessary.

Tom Walburgh – 86 N. Shamrock Drive questioned the \$65,500 pool line item but does not see revenues. What is the plan for the pool.

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Gilroy provided details on the fire department increase. When she and Councilmember Nelson first met with the fire department, they were asking for \$329,000. It was very clear they needed Foxfire to move to the same funding as Moore County, 8.75%. She contacted the County and was told they completely changed how they're funding their fire department right now. They provided a complete funding chart from the county that only funds two funds, operation and reserve. Gilroy explained further how the county funding will benefit Foxfire. Based on our valuations x 7.75%, we would pay almost \$288,000. They also have a truck that we broached making the loan payment of \$17,000 that's how we got to \$305,000. Mayor Gregorich added that the terms of this agreement have not been voted on by the council. This is only the discussions had between West End Fire and the Village.

Gregorich responded to Ms. Frusco's remaining three questions. She said that Moore County was aware that Foxfire did not offer a discount and they have it under control. She added that tax payments will not be accepted in the Village drop box. They will need to be mailed or delivered to the county or paid by credit card online through the county website.

Gregorich said the Village will continue funding the separation allowance. We don't want to lose sight of what that reserve is for.

Gregorich suggested putting pickleball maintenance as a line item in the parks account right now and next year add it as a separate expense account. The council briefly discussed and decided to move \$1,000.00 out of the contingency fund into the park budget for pickleball maintenance.

Councilmember Gilroy responded to Mr. Walburgh's question about the pool. The Village is still waiting for the pool assessment to be done before we know what repair costs will be. Mayor Gregorich added this budget goes until June of 2025. We budgeted the \$65,500 because we still have costs like electricity, chemical expenses, staffing to consider in the event we get the pool open next season.

Councilmember Gilroy asked to amend the budget ordinance by adding \$5,000.00 to Beer and Wine Tax Revenue which increases total revenue to \$1,848,643. The fire department expense is reduced from \$329,500 to \$305,000. Both changes are added to contingency.

A summary of the proposed changes to the draft ordinance are as follows:

- Decrease Fire Protection from \$329,500 to \$305,000
- Increase Village Green Park from \$77,700 to \$86,700
- Increase Contingency from \$105,030 to \$125,530

Mayor Gregorich asked to re-open the public hearing to take comments about the recent changes.

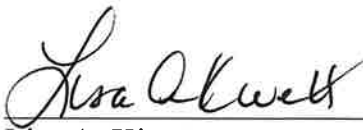
Councilmember Gilroy made a motion to re-open the Public Hearing, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously.

There were no additional public comments.

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to adopt the 2024-2025 FY Budget Ordinance #2024-12 with the changes discussed this evening, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Gilroy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously. The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.



Lisa A. Kivett, MMC, NCCMC, CZO
Village Administrator/Clerk



Janice Gregorich
Mayor