

CITY COUNCIL RECONVENED BUDGET FY16 PUBLIC HEARING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 6:30PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Lister called the City Council meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lister, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Shaheen, Kennedy, Lown, Dwyer (7:05 p.m.) and Thorsen

Absent: Councilors Morgan and Spear

III. RECONVENED PUBLIC HEARING (*Recessed from May 11, 2015*)

A. PROPOSED FY JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016 BUDGET

Mayor Lister reopened the public hearing and called for speakers.

Bill St. Laurent said he has never heard of a City Councilor voting opposed to the reconvening of a budget public hearing. He has read articles on projects in the City but has not heard a City Councilor say we need to save the taxpayers money. He expressed concern with the proposed \$101 million budget. He stated after elections are held you don't hear any more about the budget and people are feeling that the City Council doesn't care about the taxpayer. Mr. St. Laurent said residents feel the City Council is not listening so why should they come to a public hearing to speak on the budget. He stated people are moving because they can no longer pay the high taxes.

Paul Mannle said all the City Council wants to talk about is how low the tax rate is. He asked that the City Council spend the budget wisely and fairly among all residents. He spoke to various projects within the Capital Improvement Plan. He said the City Council needs to stop spending money on studies. Mr. Mannle said the Council should raise parking rates to gain more revenue.

Erik Anderson agrees with previous speaker's comments and their concerns with the budget. He said we don't have a revenue problem; we have a spending problem in the City. He stated taxes need to be reduced and contracts should be reduced. He said we have great employees and we should compensate them well but the Council needs to look at the benefits provided. He asked why we need to spend money on consultants when we have talented staff that could do the work.

With no further speakers, Mayor Lister closed the public hearing.

The City Council adjourned and moved into a Budget Work Session.



Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CMC, CNHMC
City Clerk