

Council Minutes
Public Hearing – Tax Increase Proposal
June 1, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. – 502 Front Street E, Coeburn, VA

Attendees: Council members present were Veronica Buchanan, Jeff Kiser, Deventae Mooney, Sharon Still, and Jess Powers. Christy McCoy – Clerk/Treasurer, Russell Mullins, Town Manager, and William Sturgill, Attorney were also present.

Call to Order: Mayor Jeff Kiser called public hearing to order.

Councilman Deventae Mooney gave the invocation. The group remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Expression:

Roger Sartin, Meadow Street, spoke in opposition of the tax increase. Mr. Sartin stated that the increases would hurt the citizens in the Town of Coeburn. He stated that most citizens within the town were on a fixed income and that any rate increase would make it difficult.

Melissa Cooper, stated that her mother lives on Meadow Street and that she is in opposition of the tax increase. She agreed that a rate increase would put a burden on senior citizens who were already living on a fixed income.

Phillip Lane, Meadow Street, spoke in opposition of the tax increase. He stated that he believed all of the rate increases were outrageous and he didn't think that they should be approved.

Debbie Shelton, 626 Henderson St. NE, spoke in opposition of the rate increases. She stated that citizens were at the meeting to voice their opinions and concerns. She asked that Council take into consideration what the citizens were saying. She asked them to think of the public comments when the vote for the rate increases takes place. She also believed that an increase would put additional burdens on citizens living within the Town of Coeburn.

Eddie Johnson, 210 Grand Avenue, spoke in opposition of the rate increases.

James Bullion, 205 North Street, spoke in opposition of the rate increases. He stated that he mows and sweeps the sidewalk in front of his house even though it belongs to the town. He stated that if the rates are increased he expects the town to provide this service so that he no longer has to do that.

Garry L. Taylor, 137 Central St., spoke in opposition of the rate increases. Mr. Taylor asked about delinquent tax collections. He stated that Council shouldn't punish the

citizens who pay their bills. He added that Council could come up with other means of receiving revenue besides raising rates.

Jennifer Adkins, 508 North St., stated that she had no problem with the rate increases, if that's what the town had to do to survive. She commended Council for trying to put the town back together.

Charles Kiser, 501 King Ave SE., spoke in opposition of the tax increase. He asked Council to think about what they were asking of the citizens. He stated that he felt as if the increase was too much of a burden on senior citizens and low income families. He asked Council to consider the amount that they were asking citizens to pay and too possibly lower the amount that they were proposing.

Frank McReynolds, 316 May Ave., spoke in opposition of a rate increase. He asked Council to consider the citizens financial situations and other necessities that are needed, such as medical expenses and medicine. He asked Council to come together and try to find another solution instead of rate increases.

Doug Neal, 719 Second St., spoke in opposition of a rate increase. He stated that he understood that the town is in a bad financial situation and he added that the rate increases were too high. He could possibly favor a lower increase. He asked that Council consider low income families and senior citizens.

Chris Minnix, Litchfield Acres, spoke in opposition of a rate increase. He stated that if the town couldn't take care of itself then it needed to be handed over to the county. He stated that the County could maintain the town cheaper and that the cost would be less to the citizens.

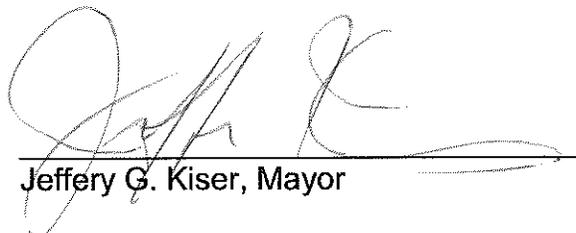
Gary Kiser, 135 Central St., spoke in opposition of a rate increase. He asked that Council consider trying to get some new business in the town to create new jobs and increase revenue.

Lela McCracken, 614 Meadow St. NE, spoke in opposition of a rate increase. She asked Council to consider households that are on a limited income.

Mayor Kiser called for any additional public comments. There being no further comments the public hearing was closed.

Respectfully Submitted,


ATTEST: Christy L. McCoy, Clerk


Jeffery G. Kiser, Mayor