

Budget and Audit Committee Minutes

City of Jackson

07.08.21

I. Call to order and welcome

Chairman Paul Taylor called the meeting to order. Committee members Johnny Dodd, Mark Johnstone, Paul Taylor, Ron Tharpe, and Ross Priddy were in attendance. Absent was Andrew Long and Tawanika McKinney. Special guest District Attorney General Jody Pickens. In attendance from the City were Bobby Arnold – Finc. Chief Julian Wiser - Police Dept. and Deputy Chief Don Friddle – Fire Dept., Mayor Conger, and Sandy Maxwell recorded the minutes. The full video of the meeting can be found at

<http://www.youtube.com/CityofJacksonTN731> (time-frame reference).

II. **Approval of Minutes:** June 17, 2021, minutes were approved as presented.

III. Election of Officers (00:20 – 1:48)

- a. **Chair:** Ross Priddy nominated Paul Taylor, seconded by Ron Tharpe, all voted aye.
- b. **Vice-Chair:** Paul Taylor nominated Ross Priddy, seconded by Johnny Dodd, all voted aye.
- c. **Secretary:** Paul Taylor nominated Ron Tharpe, seconded by Johnny Dodd, all voted aye.

IV. Information

a. **FY21 Revenue Report – Bobby Arnold (1:49 – 6:33)**

Chairman Taylor asked Mr. Bobby Arnold to give a quick run-down of the numbers.

Report: Mr. Arnold cautioned everyone that these numbers had not been reconciled; some minor adjustments may be needed. Local and State Sales Tax was up 26% over budget at \$6.1 million. Compared to FY 20, state and local sales tax was up 9.1%. Some of the increase is due to internet rule changes (not averaging taxes by population). Hotel/Motel Tax was up 85% of what was budgeted.

b. American Rescue Plan Local Government Distribution - *Paul Taylor* (6:34 – 7:28)

Chairman Taylor said the "final-final guidance" is still about 30 days out from being final. Therefore, we are still planning but not spending the ARP money.

V. Business

a. FY22 Budget Amendment Review

i. Gang Prosecutor Position Continuation - *District Attorney, Jody Pickens* (7:30 – 44:28)

Chairman Taylor introduced District Attorney General Jody Pickens to the committee. AG Pickens reviewed the number of cases that have been tried for gang activity and the level of success that the district has experienced by having a gang prosecutor. Unfortunately, the grant that paid the majority of the salary is no longer available. He also explained the need for the city to continue the fight against gang violence and, equally as necessary, gang violence prevention through our school system. Chief Julian Wiser reiterated the cause for employing a gang prosecutor. After some discussion, Chairman Taylor motioned to take this item before the city council, and Johnny Dodd seconded it. Chairman Taylor said we would be asking the council to approve an additional \$80,000 (\$30,000 has already been approved through the FY 22 budget) needed to pay the gang prosecutor salary, benefits, and expenses. And for City Council to explore the cost of funding the prevention and education components. All voted, aye.

b. Goal/Need Oriented Sub-Committee(s) Discussion (44:32 – 46:28)

i. Police/Fire Staffing and Compensation Review

ii. Healthcare Cost

iii. Infrastructure Planning/Execution (Streets/Stormwater)

Chairman Taylor has added a subcommittee for the Police and Fire Departments to ensure that the city is paying on the correct scale for a city the size of Jackson. He would like to ask Gary Pickens and Johnny Dodd from the city council to join this subcommittee. He added that the Healthcare Cost subcommittee still needs a few members.

**c. Purchasing Recommendations and Action Plan Update - *Tawanika McKinney*
(46:29 – 47:22)**

The mayor to speak on the Purchasing Action Plan in Ms. McKinney's absence, saying things are still progressing to get the new procedures in place. However, not all departments are equal in how they spend, so there will be some tweaking of the producers to fit the department's needs.

d. Update on Annual Report to City Council - *Paul Taylor* (47:23 – 47:40)

Chairman Taylor said he has been working on the report. He will present the report to this committee next month before presenting it to the city council the following month.

e. Regular meeting time – 2nd Thursday of the Month @ 11:00 AM

i. August 12, 2021

VI. Adjourn (48:20)