



FY 2025 Budget Adoption Meeting

**December 27, 2024 @ 12 Noon
Walthourville Police Department**

AGENDA

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | Mayor Sarah B. Hayes |
| II. | Roll Call for Elected Officials | City Clerk |
| III. | Purpose of Meeting
The Budget for the General Fund is \$2,736,468.26 and the Water Fund Budget is \$2,630,100.00. | Mayor Sarah B. Hayes |
| IV. | Motion to Approve FY 2025 Budget | Mayor and Council |
| V. | Motion to Adjourn | Councilmembers |

City of Walthourville
 Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting Minutes FY 2025 Budget Adoption
 December 27, 2024 @ 12 Noon
 Walthourville Police Department

- I. The meeting was called to order at 12:06 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes. In addition to Mayor Hayes, other members of Council present were:
- II. Roll Call:

Councilman Mitchell Boston (remote)
 Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Councilman Patrick Underwood
 Councilman Robert Dodd

Member Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

- III. Purpose of Meeting Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Hayes addressed the Council that the city has held six budget meetings prior to this adoption. The Budget has been balanced by the City's CPA's-CKH with input and guidance from the Elected Body. The FY 2025 General Fund Budget is \$2,736,468.26 and the FY 2025 Water Fund Budget is \$ 2,630,100.00. She asked if there was a motion to adopt the FY 2025 Budget. There was no response, and the motion died. Mayor Hayes asked if there was reason a motion was not made. She asked for the motion again and the motion died a second time. Councilwoman Kelly pivoted and stated she had a question about the city's finances. She had requested a Special Called Meeting prior to this meeting. (Due to the holidays, the meeting could not be advertised properly due to the deadlines of the Coastal Courier). She referenced a transfer that she saw on the city's online banking. Councilwoman Kelly has and was given access by Mayor Hayes. She mentioned a transfer from T-SPLOST to the Water Fund in the amount of \$300,000.00 and she wanted to know why money was being taken from a specialty purpose earmarked account? Mayor Hayes answered, "for bills," and added that it was for a Water Emergency Bills.

Mayor Hayes stated on December 12, 2024 she received a call from the city's Water Team that the city had a major sewer problem on Pamela Drive. After speaking with EPD the city had about 90 minutes act to get this spill contained. The city utilizes EOM; however, the city has outstanding bills from EOM, and they would not assist the city until the bills were paid. Mayor Hayes stated she did not want sewer backed up into citizens home and the city would have incurred fines from EPD that could have been in the millions of dollars.

Councilmembers Boston, Kelly and Underwood stated they were concerned that money was being spent that should not have been spent for this Water Project. And Council should have been informed. Mayor Hayes stated this was an Emergency and she made the best decision she could. The money was spent on EOM. Councilwoman Kelly questioned, "why was \$300K transferred and the money is still in the Water Fund?" Mayor Hayes informed her the city still has bills December 12th that haven't been submitted by EOM and the city must purchase a bypass pump and a lift station pump. These pumps are very costly. The Councilmembers stated the funds are commingled and bills should not be paid with TSPLOST Funds.

Mayor Hayes informed them no routine bills were being paid with these funds. She added that she took full responsibility because she was trying to save the city from additional expenses such as an EPD Fine. Mayor Hayes further added that the Water Fund would have had money but that the Water Fund has been supporting the General Fund for years. Councilwoman Kelly wanted to know why the check could not have been written from the TSPLOST Account. (For informational purposes the TSPLOST is considered a General Fund Account (100) and this emergency was for the Water Fund (505).

Councilman Boston added that this alludes to what he has been saying the city is overspending and massive cuts need to be made.

Attorney Moses stated he did not have the city's TSPLOST agreement, but he was certain the Water Emergency was an allowable cost as outlined in the agreement. He addressed the council and stated the city's charter specifically stated that the city must adopt a balanced budget each year to remain in State Compliance. He stated the council could always amend the budget in the new year.

Councilman Dodd asked, when we know if we can legally use the TSPLOST Funds? Attorney Moses stated he will research it and the Council can call a Special Called Meeting. Mayor Hayes again, asked if there was a motion to approve the FY 2025 Budget there was no response, and the motion died the third time.

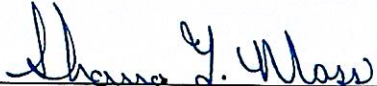
Mayor Hayes asked the council what they wanted to do about the upcoming Budget. Councilman Underwood stated he couldn't support the budget until he knew if the money could be spent, legally. Councilman Dodd stated he wasn't going to approve the Budget because he doesn't support the city charging a Fire Fee. Councilmembers Boston and Kelly stated they couldn't pass the budget because the city needed to make additional budget cuts, and they wanted the department heads to make the necessary budget cuts for their departments.

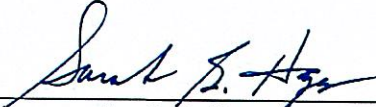
- IV. Motion to Approve the FY 2025 Budget
Mayor and Council Attorney Moses again stated the budget could be amended. The Council decided to pass the FY 2025 Budget to remain in compliance but as a contingent consequence to passing the budget they scheduled a Special Called Meeting for January 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM to amend the FY 2025 Budgets. The motion under these conditions was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.

Councilmembers Voting Favorably: Boston, Underwood and Kelly.
Councilmember Opposed: Dodd

- V. Motion to Adjourn
Councilmembers
At 1:04 PM the motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.


Shana T. Moss, City Clerk


Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor