



SOUTH HILL TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2023, 5:00 P.M.

A special meeting of the South Hill Town Council was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the South Hill Town Hall located at 211 S. Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia 23970. The meeting was held to discuss and review certain proposed taxes and rates. Town Clerk Anna Cratch took minutes of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Mayor Dean Marion called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Marion called upon Town Clerk Anna Cratch to call the roll, which was as follows:

A. Council Members

Lillie Feggins-Boone
Delores Luster

Ashley C. Hardee
Mike Moody

Gavin Honeycutt
Shep Moss

Councilor Michael Smith arrived at 5:21 p.m. Councilor Joseph E. Taylor, Jr. was absent.

3. Agenda Additions

Initially, Councilors Moss and Honeycutt wanted to add a Closed Session to the agenda to discuss Personnel and a potential Legal matter regarding possible litigation. Mayor Marion reported there has been no update since the last Closed Session discussion; however, he commented he has no hesitancy in adding a Closed Session if Council so desires. Anna Cratch mentioned it needs to fall within the definitions/purposes for a closed meeting. Councilor Moody expressed concern that two Councilors were not present and were not aware of such addition to the agenda. Councilor Honeycutt shared that when the papers reach out to him, he will be making comment on things that have happened and he will take his chances in a court of law.

4. Certain Proposed Taxes and Rates

As sales are decreasing nationwide and so as not to be a burden to local businesses, Councilor Moss shared he is in favor of not increasing the cigarette tax (projected to raise \$138,000) and going up 2% on the lodging tax to raise the needed revenue for the Town (a 1% increase would be projected to raise \$135,000). Councilor Moody commented Councilors were okay with the budget at the last Public Hearing.

When asked, Sheila Cutrell reported she believes the lodging tax would be a longer source of revenue for the Town. \$174,886 was the savings from the garbage truck being taken out. The operating capital reserve line item could be reduced instead of increasing the lodging tax by an additional one percent.

Following a lengthy discussion, Councilors were in favor of using the funds from removing the garbage truck, leaving the lodging tax at the 1% increase as advertised (6.5%), and not increasing the cigarette tax but leaving it at the current .15/pack. That would be okay mathematically. The lodging tax can be looked at again next year. Councilman Moss commented he is fine with it as it is but thinks Council should have increased the lodging tax.

Mayor Marion informed Councilors that according to §15.2-1427 G of the Code of Virginia, in towns, no tax shall be imposed except by a two-thirds vote of the council members.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business matters before the South Hill Town Council, Mayor Marion adjourned the special meeting at 6:00 p.m.

VALIDATION

Minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Anna B. Cratch, Town Clerk

Dean Marion, Mayor