

FINANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE
AGENDA
March 14th 2019
4:30 P.M.

- I. Agenda Changes
- II. Adoption of Minutes
1 February 14th, 2019
- III. FY 2019-2020 Budget
- IV. General Information
- V. Town Council Agenda
- VI. Next Meeting Date: April 11th 2019
- VII. Adjournment

**Finance and Organizational
Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 14th 2019**

Mrs. Ball called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. Committee members present included Mrs. Ball, Chairperson, Jack Lawson and Robert Lawrence.

Also Present: Mayor, Jim Hudson; John Ragsdale, Town Council Member; John Edwards, Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; TC Moore, Town Treasurer and Donna Pauley, Human Resource Officer.

I. Agenda Changes

There were no changes made to the agenda.

II. Adoption of Minutes

February 14th, 2019

Mr. Lawson made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, upon a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

III. FY 2019-20 Budget

Mr. Edwards advised that he has meet with all of Town Council except Mrs. Nichols. Mrs. Nichols is out of town and I will be meeting with her when she returns.

Mr. Lawson advised that the town has been very good stewards of public money and the town's revenue is increasing each year. Mr. Lawson suggested the town consider lowering the tax rate.

Mrs. Ball advised that a tax assessment will be done in 2019 and go to record effective 2020. Mrs. Ball suggested the town wait until the tax assessment, it would not be good if the Town lowered the tax rate then increased it in 2020 due to the re-assessment.

Mr. Lawson advised that the biggest complaint from citizens is the high taxes, the town is in a good position to lower the tax rate this year.

Mr. Hudson recommended that Town Council consider a reduction in taxes in the next election year, 2020.

Mr. Edwards advised that when we are at a point to reduce taxes, we need to figure out how much we can afford to reduce and cut it across the board for everyone.

Mr. Lawson advised that we need to have the discussion and the public need to know we are having the discussion. There is a new group of people moving to town and we need to be pro-active and not re-active.

Mrs. Ball advised that with the re-assessment in 2020 there will be an increase in the assessment and that would be the time to review the tax rate.

Mr. Lawson advised that he has been on Town Council for 15 years and the tax rate has not been lowered except for an equalization during the last re-assessment. Mr. Lawson suggested that Town Council have some kind of discussion as soon as possible so the public are aware it is being discussed.

Mr. Hudson advised that the town will review the tax rate and a possible equalization rate during the re-assessment.

IV. General Information

1 Jason Harlow's Funeral

Mr. Edwards advised that he sent an email about Jason Harlow's funeral on Sunday. Town staff is preparing a resolution to be presented to Susan Harlow at the Town Council meeting.

2 Brite Software Company

Mrs. Ball advised that the County is researching the possibility of moving software companies to move away from Brite.

TC Moore advised that localities that have moved away from Brite have eventually gone back due to software compatibility.

V. Town Council Agenda

Mr. Edwards advised that FY 2019-20 budget will be on the Town Council agenda for request to advertise a public hearing in April.

VI. Next Meeting Date: April 11th, 2019

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business Mrs. Ball adjourned the meeting at 5:15 P.M.


Deborah T. Ball
Chairperson

ATTEST:


Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk