

**City of Rocky Top**  
**Special Called Meeting- June 26, 2023**

The City Council of Rocky Top, Tennessee, met at City Hall at 9:00 a.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023 for a special-called meeting to vote on Ordinance No. 574 to adopt the annual budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and to vote on Ordinance No. 573 to amend the annual budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The 2022-2023 budget amendment is to provide funding for the computer upgrades.

Councilman Zack Green led the invocation. Mayor Templin led the pledge of allegiance.

Upon roll call the following answered present: Jeff Gilliam, Mack Bunch, Zack Green and Kerry Templin. Stacy Phillips was absent due to conflict with vacation schedule.

Mayor Templin called the meeting to order for the purpose to adopt the annual budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and for the second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 573 for the budget amendment for fiscal year 2022-2023. Upon Councilman Jeff Gilliam's inquiry if any budget changes had occurred, the City Manager pointed out that a couple of things had changed in the budget since the last meeting. CUB had scheduled to move one of their utility poles that houses a control panel that we have to move and the expense for same had to be added to the budget. Additionally, in the water and sewer departments budget \$100,000.00 was added to fund equipment repairs that was inadvertently omitted at the initial budget submission. Councilman Jeff Gilliam inquired that property taxes would not increase. City Manager and Mayor Templin both confirmed that property taxes will not increase.

Councilman Zack Green inquired why the wages for the fire department increased. City Manager Mike Ellis stated that a fireman was hired so that Fire Chief Anthony Braden could go to days since he is also the Codes Enforcement Officer. Mayor Templin inquired to confirm that the raises were figured into the budget. Additionally, Councilman Zack Green inquired that since a position was removed from the water department where did those monies go in the budget. City Manager Michael Ellis stated that those monies went to hire a worker at the water department and remained in the distribution and transmission budget. Mayor Templin further stated that Michael Foust is the licensed Sewer Plant Operator and Frank Phillips is the General Foreman/Crew Chief for water. Councilman Zack Green inquired further why the wages in the recreation department tripled. City Manager Michael Ellis explained the wages were increased to allow us to hire additional employees to help with the community center and to help Dustin. Councilman Zack Green inquired what the Professional Services budget line-item entails. Both the City Manager and City Recorder explained that funding for any services that require a licensed professional can be utilized in the Professional Services budget line item. A brief discussion was held regarding the healthcare and workers' compensation expenses. Councilman Zack Green inquired if we would be hiring any additional police officers. City Manager Michael Ellis stated that we would be hiring one (1) additional police officer.

Councilman Zack Green made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 574 and adopt the 2023-2024 budget, Jeff Gilliam seconded the vote. Mayor Templin stated that the 2023-2024 tax rate shall remain \$2.00 per \$100.00 of assessed value for both Anderson and Campbell Counties. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Bunch-I; Gilliam-I; Green-I and Templin-I. Motion passed unanimously upon roll call vote. Stacy Phillips was absent due to conflict with vacation schedule.

Councilman Jeff Gilliam made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 573 and adopt the 2022-2023 budget amendment to provide funding for the computer upgrades. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Bunch-I;

Gilliam-I; Green-I and Templin-I. Motion passed unanimously upon roll call vote. Stacy Phillips was absent due to conflict with vacation schedule.

The City Recorder stated that the other item for discussion was the water rate. Mayor Templin inquired if the auditing firm should be brought into the discussion regarding water rates as they review our financial information on a yearly basis. City Recorder stated it is her understanding that the auditors do not get involved in discussions, but we could reach out to the firm for their response and/or thoughts. Mayor Templin stated that the math does not add up with our current water rate based on the previous Ordinances that contain water rate increases. Councilman Zack Green stated the yearly audits were always in good standing and did not reflect the water department was losing money. Mayor Templin wants us to figure out where our water rate should be and pass a new Ordinance to reflect our intentions going forward to insure sustainability.

Next board meeting will be held on July 20, 2023 with a Beer board meeting to be held at the beginning of the regular meeting for the Marathon beer permit application.

Mayor Templin requested that the council email him their certificates for the Comptroller training so that we would have a record of everyone's completion. Mayor Templin is anticipating having to submit certificates of completion for upcoming grants.

Vice-Mayor Mack Bunch made the motion to adjourn, Councilman Jeff Gilliam seconded the vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

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Kerry Templin, Mayor

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Peggy Watson, City Recorder