

Town Council Minutes
August 1, 2011

Council discussed the various options presented by Mr. Fox. Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome mentioned that the current proposed budget includes the Town's participation in Social Security and if the Town is able to opt out of the Social Security program, the budget numbers would be different.

The following employees took the opportunity to address Council with their questions and concerns:

Lt. Scott Mitchell, Fire Department – In response to Council comments, Mr. Mitchell expressed his concern that the Town is considering withdrawing from the Social Security program and explained that the absence of a Social Security payment would not be a raise as suggested, it is money already earned.

Blake Slater, Fire Department - Mr. Slater inquired as to when taxes had last been raised as it seems the duty of balancing the budget is falling on the backs of employees.

Officer Sam Nance, Police Department – Mr. Nance offered his resignation to Council and explained that he has accepted a job in another city that pays more money but also stated why he has loved working in Pantego. He urged Council to consider the implications of not adequately paying the safety professionals the Town relies on.

Detective Michelle Brown, Police Department - Ms. Brown asked Council if outsourcing certain police department duties had ever been considered.

Chris Rossing, Fire Department - Mr. Rossing questioned Council if the turnover rate regarding training and overtime was budgeted.

Council discussed the concerns brought by the employees in attendance as well as the options presented by City Manager Sean Fox. Mr. Fox recommended Council choose an option presented so a new budget rendition can be created for further review. Mayor Paradise directed Mr. Fox to proceed with Option D6 which called for the elimination of sick leave buy back, the elimination of the Step Plan, created a tiered pay increase of 4%/3%/2% as detailed earlier and a \$5 flat rate monthly longevity pay.

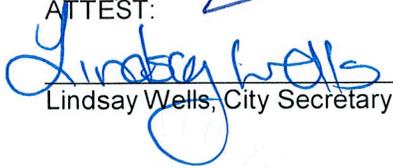
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Paradise adjourned the regular session at 7:49 p.m.

APPROVED:


Melody Paradise, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

