

City Of Albion  
City Council Special Meeting  
December 14, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joseph Domingo opened the Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED

III. ROLL CALL

Ron Gant (1), Betty Branche (2), Thorland Bradley (3), Andy Zblewski (4), Cheryl Krause (5), George Strander (6) and Mayor Joseph Domingo.

Administration: Mike Herman, City Manager; Kevin Markovich, Director of Public Services; Kerry Helmick, Finance Director/City Clerk/City Treasurer ; Eric Miller, Chief of Public Safety and Chuck Robison, City Attorney.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING - 2010 BUDGET

A. General Fund - \$4,290,283.

Mayor Domingo opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m.

City Manager Herman gave an overview regarding the budget process and timeline as established by the City Charter.

Joshua Eldenbrady, 405 South Dalrymple Street, expressed appreciation for having a public copy available at the District Library for review, requested clarification regarding the use of volunteer fire fighters as mentioned in the budget memo and questioned why the City does not require Public Safety personnel to live within the City limits.

City Manager Herman stated that the idea of establishing a pool of paid on-call volunteer fire fighters to be funded by various local agencies with current mutual aid agreements has been briefly mentioned in conversation. City Manager Herman also stated that current State law prohibits requiring employees to live closer than 20 miles.

Jay Loomis, 927 North Berrien Street, requested clarification regarding Public Safety staffing levels for the next four years if a COPS grant is received.

City Manager Herman stated that the City would have the option of repaying any grant dollars received if future budgetary constraints resulted in additional layoffs during the years covered by the grant.

Bob Dunklin, 707 Huntington Boulevard, inquired as to plans for increasing City revenues in 2010.

City Manager Herman stated that the City has limited revenue sources, although one short-term option would be to increase the mills levied. Long-term options within limited City control are to increase private business activities, employment and residency to increase income and property tax receipts. City Manager Herman also touched on some of the activities undertaken by the City's Economic Development Corporation, under the purview of the State, including Revolving Loan Fund resources for local businesses and mentoring services provided by the Small Business Administration.

Council Member Strander commented on the three main sources of revenue available to the City with emphasis on state-shared revenue.

City Manager Herman commented that an increase in state-shared revenue for municipalities would result in a decrease in aid for the public schools and vice versa as both come from the same State source.

With no additional comments being brought forth, Mayor Domingo closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Krause moved, Branche supported, CARRIED, to Adjourn the Special Meeting. (7-0, rcv).

Mayor Domingo adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:24 p.m.

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date

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Kerry Helmick  
Finance Director/City Clerk