



**ORTING CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**
Public Safety Building, 401 Washington Ave. SE
JULY 31, 2015

Mayor Joachim Pestinger called the Special meeting to order with the flag salute at 7:00 pm in the Orting Public Safety Building. Roll call found in attendance Deputy Mayor Josh Penner, Councilmembers Sam Colorossi, Scott Drennen, William Birkes, Barbara Ford, Tod Gunther and Dave Harman.

ATTENDANCE:

City Employees

Mark Bethune, City Administrator Bill Drake, Police Chief
Rachel Pitzel, City Clerk

**Professional
Representatives**

Charlotte Archer, Attorney – Kenyon Disend

Visitors (signed in)

Graham Hunt
Doug Bishop

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss an increase in Utility Business & Occupation Tax to go before the voters on the ballot of the General Election- November 3, 2015

Deputy Mayor Penner reported Council has a draft resolution before them to look over and see exactly what is proposed.

Councilmember Colorossi handed out a breakdown of line items to help explain the taxing source, tax formula, budget and actuals; he discussed his utility bills and what he is being charged.

Councilmember Drennen asked about adding more police officers to be out in the community, and wanted to know what percentage is done administratively vs. out in the public producing citations for violations.

Chief Drake stated that depending on the case, it depends on how much paperwork it produces. He discussed a new records management system and hours of service that the Administrative Clerk is able to help with submitting paperwork to the proper channels.

Councilmember Drennen clarified that he wanted to make sure we get the increase of officers to be out in the street and not in the office doing administrative duties. He discussed cost effectiveness to the process of administrative work vs. police officers out in the public.

Councilmember Ford stated an idea for this funding would be to fund additional clerical as well as officers; she discussed that a long term discussion has been in place on what an ideal police force would look like, this proposal is to bring up the current clerical.

Deputy Mayor Penner asked the City Attorney if instead of identifying just police officers, can the resolution be more ambiguous – (increase staffing).

Councilmember Harman discussed the confusion in the verbiage and asked if it was possible to change it around so it could be better understood what is being proposed to voters.

Councilmember Colorossi brought up the cap amount on the original ordinance and wanted to know if that was going to be changed or still remain the same.

Councilmember Birkes stated he did not want to see an increase in the cap amount and that could be discussed later if the voters approve the proposition which will bring forward the ordinance at that time.

Council discussed the resolution and the corrections to be made in the resolution an Exhibit A including staffing and police officers, changing verbiage around to help citizens understand the tax base better, adding a cap amount to the ordinance, and add the wording "community policing program".

Councilmember Birkes moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-10, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on November 3, 2015, of a proposition authorizing an amendment to the Business and Occupation Tax rate to increase the tax rate from 6 % to nine and two fifths (9.4%) percent with amendments. Second by Deputy Mayor Penner.

City Clerk read the amendments back to Council, also adding that Exhibit B (Explanatory Statement) will be struck from the Resolution.

Vote- Motion carried (7-0).

Public comment

Doug Bishop asked about manufactured and satellite TV and utilities, asked how that charge is based and if it's based on addresses.

ADJOURN:

Councilmember Ford moved to adjourn. Second by Councilmember Gunther. Motion carried (7-0).

ATTEST:



Joachim Pestinger, Mayor



Rachel Pitzel, City Clerk