

WAYNESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 6TH, 2021
SPECIAL SESSION
5:30PM

Call to Order: Mayor Brown called the August 6th, 2021 special session of the Waynesville City Council to order at 5:30pm.

Roll Call: On roll call, Mayor Pro Tem Liberty and seven (7) council members were present:

PRESENT: Farnham, Davis, Wilson, Curtis, Rice, Conley, Koren

ABSENT: Mayor Brown

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was given by Councilman Wilson with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Councilman Koren.

PUBLIC HEARING – FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES – Mayor Pro Tem Liberty opened the public hearing at 5:30 pm regarding Fire Protection Services for the City of Waynesville. City staff are concerned that due to district boundaries and state statutes, the citizens of Waynesville are unable to vote regarding any tax increase for fire protection services from the Waynesville Rural Fire Protection District (WRFPD).

Citizen Comments:

Comments were made by several citizens living in the County. All were concerned about the continued quality of service, such as response times and the loss of staffing levels within the Waynesville Rural Fire Protection District.

Mike France from Waynesville stated that the citizens had no voice when the district tax was raised in 2010. That nearly tripled the amount of the fee the City has to pay to WRFPD. Mr. France stated there should be no taxation without representation for the citizens of Waynesville.

John Seaman from Saint Robert asked if Saint Robert would have to build another fire station and equip it in order to service Waynesville. Mr. Doyle stated that was a question for Saint Robert's City Council, not Waynesville's. Mr. Seaman stated that he did not want his property taxes raised to cover the cost. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Seaman if he would like to vote on that issued and Mr. Seaman replied that "Yes, he would." Mayor Pro Tem Liberty stated that Waynesville residents would like to be about to vote on their tax rate as well.

Fire Chief Doug Yureko addressed the Council. Chief Yureko stated that the fire department determines the ISO rating and the City's rating could suffer if services went to Saint Robert. Mr. Doyle stated that was not the truth, that WRFPD does not determine the ISO rating but that Jim makes that determination. Mr. Doyle did not want the citizens to be mislead on that kind of information. Chief Yureko stated that services from Saint Robert would cause the City's ISO rating to drop due to the fact that Saint Robert does not have any firehouses or equipment in the City of Waynesville and their staffing level is less that WRFPD. Mr. Doyle stated he did not want to compare the departments to one another as both departments offered exceptional service to their citizens.

Councilman Farnham suggested that staff revisit the original contract with WRFPD in regards to what the City should be paying as far as the fee goes. Mr. Doyle stated state statute sets the

cost of fire protection services. The Fire District's tax is used to calculate the cost which is applied to the City's annual assessed value. The District tax rate is voted on by the members of the District. The City is not a member, therefore has no right to vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Liberty closed the public hearing at 6:22pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Mayor Pro Tem Liberty called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Rice to approve the Consent Agenda.

YEAS: Farnham, Davis, Wilson Curtis, Rice, Liberty, Conley, Koren

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

Citizen Comments: None

Finance Committee

- i. **PROPOSED ORDINANCE** – HB2021-27 – Establishing the Position of Economic Development Coordinator. No Discussion.
The proposed ordinance was read by title two (2) times and its approval and passage was moved by Councilman Conley and seconded by Councilman Koren.

YEAS: Farnham, Davis, Wilson, Curtis, Rice, Liberty, Conley, Koren

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this session of the Waynesville City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm by Mayor Pro Tem Liberty. The next scheduled session of the Waynesville City Council is August 19th, 2021 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Brown
City Clerk