

SPECIAL CALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers*

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Hark, Council Members Phillips, Welch, Veach, McCoy, Mayor Pro Tem Dobson, and Council Member Franke

Absent: -0-

CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Mayor Hark called the meeting to order.

**STEPHEN FRANKE – 3RD WARD COUNCILMEN
CHARLES PHILLIPS – 4TH WARD COUNCILMEN
Re: *Public Safety***

Council Member Franke advised that he called this Special Call Meeting to discuss funding for the Police and Fire wages and a possible funding source to help bridge the gap in the salaries and provide revenue on a long-term basis. Mr. Franke advised he is proposing an ½ cent Public Safety Sales Tax to be placed on the ballot for voter approval that would be used as a dedicated funding source for the Hannibal Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Franke’s opinion is that while the City may be able to “afford” a ten percent increase in the FY 2024 budget per the Financial Director, Ms. Quinn’s, advice, he believes we need to look beyond “next year” claiming it would make salaries more competitive with surrounding areas, reduce training costs, reduce turnovers, and stabilize staff. He advised that the City does not have the authority to place such a tax on the ballot, we would need to apply to the State of Missouri, as it requires approval from the legislative branch. We would start by the City hiring a lobbyist to write the language for the Bill and seek a sponsor for the Bill. Once a lobbyist secures a sponsor, they then would pre-fill a Bill and continue to look for co-sponsors. It would then be the lobbyist and Sponsors job to get the Bill passed allowing the City to place a Public Safety Sales Tax on the ballot to be voted on by the citizens of Hannibal.

MIKE DOBSON – MAYOR PRO TEM DOBSON
Re: *Funding solution for Police and Fire Wage Increase*

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Dobson then addressed the Council regarding funding for Police and Fire. Mr. Dobson advised that during the Budget Workshop there was discussion about additional funding needed for Police & Fire employees. Mr. Dobson advised that currently the City’s sales tax rate is 8.86%, which is very high, which leaves us with Personal Property Taxes that have not been increased since 1973. Mr. Dobson advised that a 10% increase in Personal Property taxes would generate roughly \$262,120.00 in revenue yearly for Police & Fire employees. Mr. Dobson explained while this isn’t a significant increase it would bridge the gap on wages and allow the Police & Fire to increase wages to a more competitive wage, while leaving sales tax at its current percentage which is already high. Mr. Dobson advised that with the approval of the Council the measure could be placed on the November ballot which would generate this additional revenue for Police & Fire quickly, as the cut off for the November ballot is August 31, 2023. Mr. Dobson believes that the Police and Fire Chiefs are passionate about their departments and with their support the Community will be willing to support the Property Tax increase.

Council Member Veach made a motion to approve a ten percent increase for all City staff in FY 2024. Council Member Franke seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

Yes: Mayor Hark, Council Members Phillips, Welch, Veach, McCoy, and Franke -6

No: Mayor Pro Tem Dobson -1

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was then made by Council Member Veach to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dobson.

Motion carried.

James R. Hark, Mayor

Melissa Cogdal, Deputy City Clerk