

**MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**  
**HELD June 21, 2011**

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Hansen.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Fire Chief Wayne Peabody led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**  
Present: Council Members Yoder, Cobb, Hobbs, Holvik & Mayor Hansen  
Absent: None
4. **Agenda Review:** It was **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Cobb to accept the June 21, 2011, Special City Council Budget Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed.
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Executive Session:**

Mayor Hansen announced that the Council would now enter into Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 to have a conference with the City's Labor Negotiators Finance Director Tim Sailsbery and City Manager Steve Holsinger, regarding the outcome of the latest labor negotiations between the Negotiators, and the Willows Public Safety Association, the Willows Employees Association and the Unrepresented Employees. The Council entered into Closed Session at 5:33 p.m.

The Council and Negotiators emerged from Executive Session and the meeting was reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

7. **Report-Out from Closed Session:**

Mayor Hansen reported that the City Council received an update on Labor Negotiations and substantial changes since the last update were reviewed by the Council and direction was given to Staff.

8. **Public Hearing:**

- a. 2011/2012 Budget Adoption:

Mayor Hansen stated that the Council will be conducting a Public Hearing to receive public input about the proposed Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Budget and shall provide final direction to Staff for Budget Adoption. At this time Council Member Holvik addressed the Mayor, fellow Council Members, Staff and the audience, stating that it is his belief - and he has expressed this to a number of City employees - that the City Council and Agency Negotiators failed in their efforts and in their responsibilities to negotiate in good faith with the Union groups. He stated that some

opportunities were missed that were not recognized at the time, and he stated that hind-sight is a lot better than foresight at times. After sharing his comments Council Member Holvik **moved** to rescind all of the direction that was provided to Staff relative to the budget discussion of June 14. Council Member Yoder **seconded** the motion. Mayor Hansen asked if there were any additional comments the Council would like to share. Council Member Yoder stated that he agreed with Council Member Holvik and that he and Council Member Holvik have served on the Council for several years and he believes the Council and Negotiators started out with the best of intentions but the implementation he believes was wrong. He doesn't believe that any member sitting at the Dias was trying to hurt, or to pit anybody against one another, but rather they are trying to do what they believe is best for the community. He believes they do have the best intentions, but the implementation did fail and he believes everybody needs to move forward from this point on. Mayor Hansen then stated that he too agrees and he feels, as a member of the Council, that the Council's goal was to treat everyone fairly and to look out for the best interest of everybody in the City of Willows and to be fair to the employees as well, which is why they were elected. With a motion and a second still on the floor, Mayor Hansen called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously 5/0.

With there being no additional comments from the Council, Mayor Hansen opened up the Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m. Susan Parisio addressed the Council and asked if there are other places that the City could cut the budget. She stated that she respects everybody that works for the City, but she is a taxpayer and a working citizen and just like everybody else, she has had to make cuts everywhere that she spends money. She looks at things like the City Planner and she has to wonder whether there is wisdom in paying somebody for a town like Willows \$80,000 a year to come in to work one or two days a week. She wonders if that has been considered or if she just missed seeing it in the paper. She also stated that she doesn't know what cities similar in size to Willows have as far as personnel staffing levels in their Police and Fire Departments and she wonders whether or not we are in line with Cities of similar size with the number of personnel that the City has. She asked that in trimming personnel, would the City be behind those other Cities, or by keeping current staffing levels, would the City be exceeding what other Cities have? She stated that the average 2-person working household income is roughly \$40,000 in the City and she just wonders if Willows is in line with other Cities. She acknowledges that the City Council and Staff have already done a lot of work on this and she appreciates that, but those are her questions and she doesn't know at this point if there is still even time to consider them.

Mayor Hansen began to address Ms. Parisio's assertion that the City Planner makes \$80,000 a year, whereupon Ms. Parisio asked how much does the Planner make. Mayor Hansen asked the Finance Director to address that question. The Finance Director stated that the proposal for contract from a General Fund perspective for the upcoming Fiscal Year is \$25,000, however, that amount is strictly for the Planner to perform general services for the City. He continued stating if there was a specific project, the City does expend money for specific project purpose, but those monies are then reimbursed by the Project proponent or the Developer. So, all said and done, there will be more than \$25,000 expended for Planning Services, but the portion for General Planning Services that are not assigned or attached to a specific project are paid back to the City by the Project applicant.

Gail Green addressed the Council and stated that there are five Council Members for the City that are elected, every Department has a Department Head, so she asked why the City has to have a City Manager to oversee everybody. The Department Heads oversee their Departments, the Council is definitely overseeing the Department Heads, so she asked why the City has to have a City Manager sit there and basically oversee everybody else when that money could go to the Police Department and protect the Citizens, because crime is going up and not down in the City.

No additional comments were heard at this time, however, Mayor Hansen stated that rather than close the Public Hearing, the Hearing will be continued to the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting scheduled for June 28 at 7:00 p.m. in order to solicit any additional comments regarding the budget.

Council Member Holvik then stated that as the Council moves forward with budget discussions it was indicated that while the Council may be inclined to formally accept the proposal by the WPSA, he is still not sure the acceptance of their offer would get the deficit down to the \$150,000 target that the Council has agreed to. He added that there is still some work that the Council will have to do and there will still need to be additional negotiating going on. He requested of staff that if there is anything at all that can be brought forward to help with the budget and to allow the City to continue to maintain the level of services it currently has, it would be greatly appreciated if staff could bring these items forward.

9. **Adjournment:** Mayor Hansen adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Dated: June 21, 2011

NATALIE BUTLER

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City Clerk

The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider