



**CITY OF WHITEWRIGHT**  
City Council  
Called Meeting  
Whitewright Visitor Center  
111 W. Grand  
September 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.  
**MINUTES**

The City Council of Whitewright met for a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the Whitewright Visitors Center, the same being open to the public with the following members present:

Councilmember	Sarah Beth Owen
Councilmember	Bart Bodine
Councilmember	Russell Ponder
Councilmember	John Simon

Councilmember Gregory Owens was absent.

Others present were: Mayor Jeremiah Looney, City Secretary Tona Shiptet, Vicki Herber, Anita Richardson, Gwyn Jordan

**1. Call meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum:**

Mayor Looney called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM and established a quorum. Councilmembers Owen, Bodine, Ponder and Simon were present. Councilmember Gregory Owens was absent.

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

Councilmember Bart Bodine led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Looney Opened the Public Hearing.

**3. Public Hearing:** A public hearing was held for the purpose of comments for or against the proposed fiscal year 2017-2018 City of Whitewright operating budget.

**a. Citizens Comments:** None

**b. Councilmembers Comments:** Councilmember Simon questioned if previous budgets operated at a deficit. Mayor Looney affirmed that FY 2013, 2014 and 2015 had ended with deficits per the official audits. Simon questioned the amount of the deficits. Mayor Looney stated that FY 2013 ended with a deficit of \$127,196.00, FY 2014 ended with a deficit of \$89,479.00 and FY 2015 ended with a deficit of \$176,140.00. Councilmember Bodine questioned how the deficits were covered. Mayor Looney affirmed that reserves were used and exhausted to cover the deficits. Mayor Looney stated that the city had several small certificates of deposit as reserves. Councilmember Ponder referred to the previous year's tax rates being higher than the current tax rate and the city still operated at a deficit. Mayor Looney stated the intent of this budget and going forward is to build reserves. Ponder inquired if the city operated at a deficit for FY 2017 and Mayor Looney stated we did not.

**c. Close Public Hearing:**

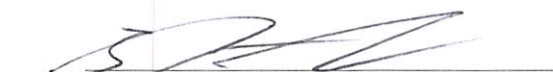
**4 Future Agenda Items:** None

**5. Adjourn:**

Councilmember Owen moved to adjourn. Councilmember Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

ATTEST BY:

  
Tona Shiptet – City Secretary

  
Jeremiah Looney – Mayor