

**UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015**

PRESENT: Russel Rude, Tim Williams, Jim Hensley, Dannie Witter, Brad Snyder, Burke Thomas, Richard Blank, Pam Tharp, Matt Snyder, Jim Crouch, and Gene Sanford.

President Russel Rude opened the meeting by leading the group with the pledge to the flag. Hensley moved to approve the minutes of the August 20 meeting. Williams seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

2016 BUDGET: Council considered the non-binding reviews of all county taxing unit's budgets. After review and discussion, Thomas moved that all budgets be approved as submitted. Snyder seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Rude then opened the public hearing for the 2016 county budget and no one was present to comment.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOIT: The Auditor reported that about \$900,000 in cuts needed to be made in the budget requests submitted for 2016. In preliminary work on the budget it seems the Public Safety LOIT which would raise approximately an additional \$240,000 would be needed to balance the budget and have a working balance. The Property Tax Relief LOIT was also discussed as this would also help reduce property taxes and shift that funding to local option income taxes. After department heads presented their budgets before Council, the discussion continued and it was decided to pursue a Public Safety LOIT of .25% for 2016. Council desired public input on the matter and set a public meeting to discuss the Public Safety LOIT for October 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM in their meeting room. They also instructed the Auditor to review the budget requests and keep costs at the 2015 appropriated levels as much as possible. They agreed to meet at 9:00 AM on October 8 to review the budget cuts and determine any other action that might need to be considered for the 2016 budget adoption on October 15.

DEPARTMENT BUDGETS: Department heads then discussed their budget proposals with Council. The Highway Department, Court/ Probation, Sheriff Jail, EMA, Parks and Recreation, Coroner, Clerk, and Prosecutor budgets were reviewed in the morning. After lunch, the Health Department, Recorder, 911, and Extension Office budgets were reviewed in the afternoon.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: For the 911 Fund, Blank moved to appropriate \$5,000 for Part time and \$10,000 for Overtime. Hensley seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

In County General for Communications, Blank moved to appropriate \$2,000 for Training. Hensley seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

TRANSFERS: In County General for the Custodian, Snyder moved to decrease Custodial Supplies \$100, Courthouse Supplies \$800, and Mileage \$100, and increase Part time Custodian \$1,000. Blank seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

MISC: None

There being no further business, Blank moved to adjourn. Snyder seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Attest _____, Auditor