

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL BONNERS FERRY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 14, 2023
5:00 pm**

Council President Rick Alonzo called the Special Council meeting of February 14, 2023, to order at 5:00 pm. Present for the meeting were: Council Members Brion Poston, Valerie Thompson and Rick Alonzo and Ron Smith. Staff present were City Administrator Lisa Ailport. Members of the public in attendance were, Jerry Higgs, Emily Bonsant, and David Sims,

Council President Rick Alonzo introduced the new business of the meeting and set forth the direction in which the meeting would be held. He asked the public to feel free to ask questions and comment, since there was only a few in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Local Option Tax Workshop- to discuss and direct staff to prepare recommendations for local option tax parameters for preparation to meet with public and prepare ballot language for future consideration (Action Item).

Administrator Lisa Ailport opened the meeting with a Power Point presentation on the Local Option Tax covering the three different parameters of the ordinance and ballot language. Those parameters include the imposition of the tax, the duration of the tax and the purpose of the tax. After the presentation, she returned to the three parameters that needed to be decided upon at the night's meeting for specific discussion and direction.

Councilmembers took up the "purpose" of the tax first, noting that the recommendation as provided by staff each was acceptable.

- (A) Fire Protection, including capital and operating expenses.
- (B) Law Enforcement, including capital and operating expenses.
- (C) Streets, Sidewalks, Buildings and Grounds, including capital and operating expenses, such as snow removal and road maintenance.
- (D) Property Tax Relief.
- (E) Direct costs to collect and enforce the tax.

And up for discussion and consideration was the following:

- (F) Public park maintenance, development, and beautification efforts, including city pool, golf course and physical park spaces.

David Sims presented his opinion that the funds received from Local Option Tax should be clear that they go towards funds that support basic services. If not, it could become an area that people may not want to support the tax.

Council members did not support adding letter (F) as part of the final resolution.

Next Council discussed the duration of the tax. Staff recommended 10 years as a minimum length for the tax, with the idea that 10 years will give enough time to be able to stabilize the funding source and predict future funding income. It will also give enough time to see other opportunities to fund some of the general fund to a point where in the future the tax may not be necessary.

Lastly, the councilmembers discussed the imposition of the tax. Noting that they supported the 1% sales tax exempting total sales in excess of \$1,000.00.

After than Council members directed staff to bring forward the final resolution for consideration at a future meeting.

Councilman Alonzo adjourned the meeting 6:00pm