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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 17, 2024, 4:00 PM
AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER	MAYOR BARBARA MALLETT
INVOCATION	COUNCILMAN RUSH
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	MAYOR BARBARA MALLETT
WELCOME	MAYOR BARBARA MALLETT

Present: *Mayor Barbara Mallett Board Members: Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Cowan, Alderman Albert Smith, Alderman Shawn Rush, Alderman George Jackson, Alderman Dwayne Holmes. Town Manager Michael Douglas, Town Clerk, ShaTaira Bailey, Town Attorney Thomas Brooke.*

Absent: *Mayor Pro Tem Cowan. Alderwoman High*

PUBLIC COMMENT *Please note that comments shall be limited to five minutes and the Town Council reserves the right not to act on requests first presented this evening.*

There are no requests for public comment at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget FY 24-25

Presented is the 2024-2025 budget for the Town of East Spencer. Overall, the proposed budget incorporates the tax increase of .20 for the FY. This increase will give the Town the ability to hire a full-time fire department, increase personnel in public works and set aside unrestricted funds.

Mayor Mallett explains that she has been quiet and let everyone speak on how they feel about the tax increase to help fund the fire department, and although she does want a 24-hour fire department she wants to find another way and do not agree with the tax increase. She stated we should wait on the SAFER Grant. Mr. Douglas explains that the SAFER Grant is not guaranteed, and that the town can not plan on a hope. Mayor Mallett also explains that something has to be done about the water issues. Mr. Douglas explains that SRU has been very inconsistent with journal

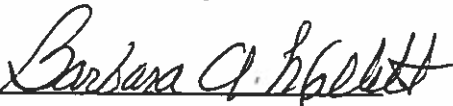
entries, and he has also asked for an audit of the money SRU collects. Alderman Jackson asked when will the tax increase effect the residents and Mr. Douglas said in July 2024. Alderman Holmes stated if things change the town can always go back and lower taxes for the next fiscal year. Mayor Mallett stated she would like to only raise taxes by 20 cents. Mr. Douglas explained that would not help or get the town the funds needed for the 24-hour fire station. Mr. Douglas explains to the board each year the tax rate will be discussed before a new budget is passed. A motion was made to approve the FY 24-25 budget by Alderman Rush; seconded by Alderman Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Manager Comments

3. Council Comments

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Alderman Jackson; seconded by Alderman Rush. Motion passes unanimously.



Mayor, Barbara A. Mallett



ShaTaira Bailey, Town Clerk

