

**Town of Rural Hall**  
**Budget and Visioning Workshop**  
**March 11, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

The Rural Hall Town Council held their Budget and Visioning Workshop on March 11, 2024, at 2:00 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Terry M. Bennett - presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn; Councilman Mark Lane; Councilman Michael Woodcock; Councilwoman Anita Ring; Interim Town Manager Homer Dearmin; Finance Clerk Donna Watson; LPA Supervisor Dawn Tysor; PIO Alston Brown; Public Works Director Jason Hill; and Fire Chief Mike Simone.

Mayor Terry Bennett called the meeting to order and gave the floor to Consultant Ron Niland.

Ron had each department head give a recap of the year FY 23-24 and present their budget needs for FY 24-25.

Interim Manager Homer Dearmin reviewed FY 23-24 budget with the Council and gave an overview of the expenses YTD. He mentioned the License Plate Agency is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest revenue for the Town. He also mentioned the last time the Town raised property tax was in 2015. If taxes were raised .01 cent that would increase tax revenue by approximately \$48,459.70. Property tax re-evaluation in 2024 will have an approximate impact of 2/3 of one penny of tax rate. The Council had requested Homer get costs from the FCSO to add an additional officer for 24-hour coverage in the Town limits. Homer also presented a breakdown of what an employee costs for the Town of Rural Hall. The FY 2024-25 budget calendar is included in the agenda package for tonight's meeting to be voted on. These dates have been set in accordance with NCGS.

Ron Niland mentioned he hoped ground will be broken by June 1 for the new fire station. As far as the park plan is concerned, anything can be changed. The Council had to vote to approve the plans to apply for the PARTF Grant. The application for the grant must be done before May 1. Ron also stated he was working on annexation proposals.

Ron asked the Council members what they would like for staff to investigate to be presented in the FY 24-25 budget presentation. Mayor Terry Bennett mentioned he would like staff to investigate increasing lighting and sidewalks in our developments.

Councilwoman Anita Ring made the motion to adjourn at 5:37 pm.

Lynette E. Hendrick  
Town Clerk