

*Village of Folsom*  
Mayor - Bettye M. Boggs

*Alderwoman - Paulette Lee*  
*Core - Municipal Clerk*  
*Alderwoman - Jill Mathies*  
*Killingsworth - Chief of Police*  
*Alderman - Lance Willie*  
*G. Talley - Village Attorney*

*Andree*

*Ronnie*

*Delbert*

**Public Hearing**  
**June 12, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Mayor Bettye M. Boggs  
Alderwoman Paulette Lee  
Alderman Lance Willie  
Alderwoman Jill Mathies  
**Absent:** Attorney Delbert Talley

Mayor Boggs called the Public Hearing to order and the municipal clerk established a quorum. Mayor Boggs led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**Item 1 – Ordinance Adoption of 2017-18 Operating Budget.**

*Ordinance No. 2017-1 - Chapter 33, An Ordinance Adopting An Operating Budget Of Revenue And Expenditures For The Year Beginning July 1, 2017 And Ending June 30, 2018*

Mayor Boggs presented the above ordinance. There was no discussion from the board nor from the public.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made from Alderman Willie to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Alderwoman Mathies, and the motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays)

**General Meeting**  
**June 12, 2017**

(General Meeting Following Public Hearing)  
(The quorum was established in the preceding Public Hearing.)

**Approval of Agenda.** Alderwoman Lee made a motion to amend the agenda with two items: Donna and Bruce Penton and Municode. It was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. The motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays)

**Approval of Financial Statements.** Alderwoman Lee stated she is not willing to approve the April financial statements. A discussion followed regarding the amending of the budget. Alderman Willie made a motion to table the April financial statements, it was seconded by Alderwoman Lee. The motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays). Alderwoman Mathies made a motion to table the May financials, it was seconded by Alderman Willie and the motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays)

**Approval of Minutes.** Alderman Willie made motion to approve the May minutes and motion was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. The motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays)

**Engineer Report.** Jay Pittman stated the USDA sewer improvements are on hold due to Congress producing a late budget. Funds have been committed, but they have not been authorized to be released yet. He stated hopefully this will take place by the end of June. Alderwoman Lee asked about the grant, he stated Folsom is eligible. As for the water line relocation for the widening of Hwy. 25 by DOTD, the plans have been submitted to Department of Health and DOTD for their review. He indicated we are waiting to hear back from DOTD regarding the permit and that the turnaround is approximately two months. He indicated he would keep the Village posted.

#### **Old Business:**

**Item 1 – Ordinance: Adoption of 2017-18 Operating Budget.** Mayor Boggs presented the ordinance from the previous Public Hearing. Alderwoman Mathies stated there are some areas in question for salaries and overtime. Mayor Boggs stated she spoke with Alderman Willie and he would approve the four percent employee raise for the budget with raises based upon merit as explained by Mayor Boggs. Alderwoman Lee stated she is not in favor of any raises at this time. Mayor Boggs noted the financial stability of the village, that the money is there, and that the employees work hard and deserve these raises. A discussion followed on the financial stability of the village and future expenditures of the village.

Alderman Willie stated he talked with the CPA regarding the 4% salary increase and he indicated to him that we could afford it. Mayor Boggs presented statistics that if we increase all salaries four percent, it will be an increase of \$ 596.00 per month out of the total budget. She stated with the amount of income the village has, she is of the opinion that the village can afford a two to four percent salary increase for the employees, but that the decision was theirs. Alderwoman Lee stated that did not change her opinion. Mayor Boggs asked if they wanted to reach an opinion among themselves so we know how much to put in the budget for salaries. Alderwoman Mathies stated that she had an issue with overtime. Mayor Boggs again requested a consensus so we can arrive at a decision as to what that number will be. Alderman Willie stated that he was in favor of the 4% based on merit and that the village could carry that amount. A discussion followed regarding overtime expenses and the affect of construction on future sales tax. Alderwoman Mathies then stated the maximum amount she would be in favor of is two percent for raises. Alderwoman Lee stated she thinks the budget should be tabled. A discussion followed regarding tabling the approval of the budget.

Mayor Boggs stated that the Police Department had more overtime because they had an officer out with an injury and the Maintenance Department has overtime because they are continuing to operate with one less employee. Mayor Boggs stated we can hire a fourth employee which will cost the village twenty thousand for salary, and an additional ten thousand in benefits and it is more cost effective to pay the three employees we have the overtime to which Alderman Willie agreed. Alderwoman Mathies stated she spoke with Mayor Boggs about hiring a fourth employee for part time so the Village would not have to pay for benefits or overtime. Alderwoman Mathies stated that the \$ 2,300.00 budget on the Sales Tax line item should not be. And that any overtime should be paid from the Water or Sewer Fund only. Alderman Willie suggested moving the \$ 2,300.00 from the Sales Tax fund to Water and Sewer. A discussion followed. Alderwoman Mathies made a motion to table the budget, it was seconded by Alderwoman Lee. A further discussion followed. The motion was called and passed to table the budget (3 yeas, 0 nays).

Village Attorney Talley stated that the village should hold a special session as the budget is supposed to be passed in June and it is improper for the board to not approve the budget. Alderman Willie asked Talley if they could have a special meeting by the end of the month. A lengthy discussion followed concerning holding a special meeting. Alderwoman Mathies asked for a separate line item for an attorney for the board. The ramifications of holding a special meeting were discussed.

Mayor Boggs opened up the floor for questions from the audience. Mr. John Erlich stated that it appeared that the board was in disagreement on 10% of the total budget and suggested that the board address that 10% disagreement to avoid the further advertisement and a special meeting. His suggestion to the board was to fix the 10% and then alter the budget at a future date. Alderman Willie asked when the raises are given which is May and suggested zero percent for the raises at this time, \$ 2300 overtime removed from sales tax fund, and increase the police radio fund from \$ 2,000 to \$ 4,900 to get the budget passed tonight, and then pass the budget tonight and they can consider amending the budget once an agreement is reached. A discussion followed and Alderman Willie indicated that he felt the employees should receive raises at a later date but he would agree to zero raise at this time to pass the budget. He stated he would like to see the budget amended in several months to provide the raises.

Mr. Ken Wilt from the audience stated he has worked with budgets and a budget is not a document carved in stone that you have to live with the rest of the year but can be amended throughout the year. He stated he was in agreement with Mr. Erlich that the budget needs to be done and feels the frustration that the board is not working together. He suggested that they understand that it is a living breathing document and not carved in stone for the rest of the year. Mr. John Erlich then suggested that the board look at the items in question since they are in agreement on 90% of the budget. Alderwoman Mathies stated in order for her to approve the budget she recommends zero percent for raises but recommends by December to consider amending the budget for employee raises, decrease police department overtime to \$ 1600, removing \$ 2,300 overtime from Sales tax, police radio fund contract to be increased from \$ 2,000 to \$ 4,900, Streets and Drainage repairs and maintenance decreased from \$ 15,000 to \$ 10,000, supplies decreased from \$ 7,000 to \$ 6,000, equipment decreased from \$ 7,000 to \$ 6,000, and add a line item for General fund for \$ 5,000 for board member attorney. Mayor Boggs stated she will have to research the legality for the line item for a board members attorney. Alderman Willie made a motion to approve the budget with therequested changes from Alderwoman Mathies, it was seconded by Alderwoman Lee and the motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays)

**Item 2 – Chapter 6 Personnel Ordinance.** Alderwoman Mathies stated she sent an email to the Mayor and Board this afternoon in regards to areas to look at and some questions. She pointed out things such as benefits that needs to be looked at so they can come to a consensus. She doesn't want employees to think that we are attempting in any form to take any benefits away, but to only change some things that have been in place for a long time and that would be benefit the Village and the employees.

Mayor Boggs stated that she was sure Mr. Talley would appreciate it so he can look into the legality of some of these things. Mayor Boggs asked Alderwoman Mathies if she had received the list of items that the Attorney General already said was not within the law. Alderwoman Mathies answered yes and her email explains what needs to be discussed and what to dismiss. Alderwoman Mathies mentioned for the clerk to note that the Chapter 6 Personnel Policy will be discussed in every monthly meeting.

**New Business:**

**Item 1 – Community Kindness and Inspiration Project – Amy Serrano** Mayor Boggs introduced Amy Serrano, who has a project called The Folsom Community Kindness and Inspiration Project.

Mrs Serrano thanked Mayor Boggs, Ashley Garrett the utility clerk, and Diane Sanders in Planning & Zoning, who all have been so kind and supportive of the idea behind this project. Also, would like to thank all the Board for allowing me to present this project.

Mrs. Serrano continued with a quote stating, it has been said... “a few kind acts multiplied by millions of people can change the world.” Mrs. Serrano explained the points of The Folsom Community Kindness & Inspiration Project. This is a project providing spaces for reflection, inspiration, sharing, expression and a since of connection. Three main experiences of Kindness & Inspiration are represented in three physical installations which are free standing boxes: 1) Little Free Pantry-consisting of non-perishables, diapers, after school snacks & more. 2) Poetry Box – containg a poem of the month written by a resident of Folsom. 3) Little Free Library – residents can get a book, return it when finished and donate books. Mrs. Serrano has developed a website and Facebook page for this project. Mrs. Serrano stated a projected budget of \$ 2,500 for the project and besides herself, her husband and the creative talents of her company “Siren Media and Marketing” she has members already committed to the project including a local contractor and vendor for construction of the boxes and plaques for lables, and other residents of the Folsom community. Also, she hopes to involve students from the Folsom Junior High School in the artistic painting of the boxes and writing of poetry.

Mrs. Serrano spoke of the proposal she previously shared with the Board of the impact of culture and acts of kindness. It also has lead to an increase of funding nationally for creative place making and having a better quality of life.

Mrs. Serrano concluded by suggesting a way to launch this project would be for the community to hold a Kindness and Inspiration Community Festival on a public site and invite the all the community, having free food, conduct a walking tour to the three boxes and a ribbon cutting to initiate the project. Finally, stating that it is a project to leave Folsom to experience a deeper sense of community, a higher sense of connectiveness, and therefore a more enhanced quality of life.

Mr. Wendell Sams asked if it will be for profit or non-profit and if it would be an asset to the already standing Library? Mrs. Serrano stated that it is a volunteer endeavor of Folsom to improve and

Comment [SD1]:

Comment [AC2]:

Comment [AC3]:

enhance their quality of life. If it grows and is profitable then we can turn it into other things like some form of progress for students and mentioning again how this can attract national attention and what that would do for Folsom. Mayor Boggs stated that we are all on board with this project and asked Mrs. Serrano what she would need from the Village and she stated, only a letter of endorsement. Mayor Boggs replied the village would be glad to take care of the letter.

**Item 2 – Select Official Journal for a One year term.** Mayor Boggs ask for a motion from the Board to select the St. Tammany Farmer for as the official journal for the Village for a one year period. Alderman Willie made motion to select the Farmer and Alderwoman Mathies seconded it and the motion carried. *(3 Yeas, 0 Nays).*

**Item 3 – Call-back time.** Mayor Boggs stated this issue came about due to the fact that we had to call an employee back before 4:30pm to turn on a meter. She stated that this has been worked out. Scott Roth, the Maintenance supervisor, will come in later and stay until 4:30pm and in any case that he cannot, he will have one of the other maintenance workers to come in later and work until 4:30 pm. Alderwoman Lee asked “so there will not be any overtime?” Mayor Boggs replied no.

**Item 4 – Utility Adjustments.** There were no utility adjustments this month.

**Item 5 – Citizen Request.** Mayor Boggs began by stating that everyone is aware that there have been some flooding issues on Jackson Street. Mr. Bruce Penton noted that water has crossed Jackson Street during heavy rain. He noted the culverts carrying the water and when it rains heavily the flooding occurs. He stated that a lot of debris is coming down the ditch and provided pictures. Mayor Boggs noted that the sewer project would take care of this long term wise, but for the short term she asked if he would call the Town Hall should he see the debris in the ditch and report it. Mrs. Penton stated they have been doing that, but there was a problem with some plintains in the ditch. She said that the workers are placing them on the side but not removing them which ends up coming back down and causing flooding. Mrs. Penton asked if the parish had been contacted after meeting with the mayor on April 3, 2017 to help with the cleaning of the ditch. Mayor Boggs replied she would check on this tomorrow.

Mr. Wendell Sams stated it is a drainage problem and that he has cleaned out some ditches including the one by the Library. He stated that the alleyways are overgrown and debris that is growing up and clogging drains so when it rains it floods. Mr. Sams continued by explaining that it is not something that just happened and concluded by expressing that it is a larger issue than just changing out sewer lines.

Alderwoman Lee asked the Mayor if it would be possible for the Village to pay the Parish to clean out the natural drain right across the street from the Penton’s, being that the Village does not have the equipment to do so. Alderwoman Lee also addressed the smell of sewer from the last flood. Mayor Boggs indicated that every time it overflows it has to be documented and reported. Alderwoman Mathies asked what was entailed in a drainage study from our engineers. Alderman Willie explained that this is an infiltration problem and the Village has a project coming for the sewer system addressing it with the sewer project. Mr. Penton stated that they have not been able to flush their toilets for days during heavy rainfall. Mayor Boggs offered to set a meeting with Jay Pittman the village engineer for further input and advice.

**Item 6 – Municode.** Alderwoman Mathies asked for an update on Municode. Mr. Talley addressed the fact that they may do a video conference and a discussion followed. Mr. Talley indicated he would check with them and make sure that the public meetings law does not prohibit it. He stated that he will inform everyone of this information.

**Announcements/Adjournment:** Alderman Willie addressed the need for mowing in the village and it was noted that the increased rain lately had them behind on mowing. However, he would like to get this taken care of around the town as soon as possible. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Alderman Willie, seconded by Alderwoman Mathies and the motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays). The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bettye M. Boggs, Mayor /s/*

*I attest that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes taken at the Public Hearing and General Meeting held at Town Hall on June 12, 2017.*

*Attest: Andree Core, Municipal Clerk /s/*