

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FALLS  
CITY OF MARLIN

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On this the 26th day of August 2014, the City Council of the City of Marlin, Texas convened in a SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORKSHOP, at 5:30pm, the same being open to the public and having been posted as prescribed in Local Government Code, Section 551.041 with the following members present to wit:

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mayor Elizabeth Nelson  
Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson  
Rose Morin - Absent  
Cecil Sparks  
Billie Jean Scaggs  
Tommy Tate @ 5:37pm  
Douglas Porter

**STAFF**

Richard Fletcher, Interim City Manager  
Sandra Herring, City Secretary

1. Call to Order by Mayor Nelson @ 5:39pm.
2. Roll Call by Sandra Herring.
3. Certify Posting in accordance with State Law.
4. Invocation & Pledge by Cecil Sparks and Douglas Porter.
5. Budget Discussion for Proposed Budget for FY 2014-2015.

Interim City Manager Dick Fletcher started the discussion by indicating to Council that it was going to be a year to make some really hard decisions. Open the meeting with discussion on the taxes. Marlin's current tax rate is .675 per one hundred dollar value. Due to the fact that the city has a 1/5 cent property tax reduction, the City must go with the roll back calculations. The roll back rate is .671 which is less than the current rate and will bring less revenue to a budget that is already carrying a negative balance. Even to stay with the current rate, the city could be looking at a roll back election. With the current needs of the City and the Councils desire to continue to fund a paid fire department, a tax increase is inevitable. The Council must decide how much of an increase is needed to fill the needs of the departments. Each cent equates to \$11,477.10 to the general fund. With a deficit of \$288,000 that would be a .26 cent increase and Mr. Fletcher is not recommending that but will support whatever Council desires. If an increase of .26 cents is advertised then the city can always decrease that amount but cannot go over that amount. The other issue is the debt service rate. There has not been an increase to the debt service rate in quite some time. The debt is for the water plant, water lines, sewer projects, etc. and the current debt service rate of \$2.10 per thousand gallons is not enough to management those payments. With an increase of \$1.00 per thousand gallons, that would carry the majority of the debt with a smaller amount coming from the water fund and would be a tolerable amount for the customers. There was additional discussion on the police cars and additional personnel but that the Council needed to direct the City Manager on how to proceed with the public hearings for the tax rate

and the budget. Council had brief discussion on how to move forward. By advertising a tax increase of .26 cents then the Council could adopt a lower rate after the public hearings depending on public input. Council agreed on the advertisement of the .26 cents increase.

6. Future Agenda Items.

7. Adjourn.

Councilmember Sparks made motion to adjourn.

Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Sparks, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Tate, Councilmember Porter, Mayor Nelson

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Morin.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2014.



*Elizabeth Nelson*  
Elizabeth Nelson, Mayor

*Sandra Herring*  
Sandra Herring, City Secretary