

**2022-2023 Budget**  
**Ladonia City Council**  
**Monday, August 8, 2022**  
6:00 p.m. at Ladonia City Hall

**Minutes**

I. Discuss 2022-2023 Budget

The workshop was called to order at 6:01 pm with a quorum present. Members present were Greg Morris, Discha Threlkeld and Deborah Barkheimer. Russell Duckworth came in at 6:03 pm. The mayor presented the council with a copy of prior years budget and Quickbooks reports. 2022-23 budget workshop was for questions and explanations.

RD- Since Mr. Morris went on record last council meeting saying we are going to cut taxes, what is on the cut list?

PH-That is for y'all to decide.

GM-We don't even have them yet so we don't know.

RD- We have the expenses, we know what we are spending money on.

GM- Well I thought you were talking about property taxes, you're talking about overall taxes.

RD- We know evaluations are going up. My appraisal went up, did your appraisal go up? So we know evaluations are up so we should get more tax revenue this year.

PH- I think first we need to start discussing it.

RD- We need to have a strategy. I would like to have some leadership from you, addressed to PH, and say what you would want to have happen. Do we want to allocate more money to road maintenance? Do we want to do more things that make this a more attractive town to move to? Or are we trying to reduce property values to as low as we can so that we have minimum taxes available so that we do less than we do right now?

PH- Did the houses just start falling down?

RD- They were like that when I moved out here.

PH-Thank you so the prior administrations should have been doing something shouldn't they? It isn't all Patricia doing.

RD- So what are we doing now?

DT- Let me interject, we can sit and point fingers all day long at everyone that has ever been Mayor or on the Council, but until we have our revenue in we can't do the other part of the budget to see what we can move where.

RD-We can make assumptions based on what the school district is getting. We know we should at least get what we got last year.

DT-I wouldn't base it off too much more.

RD- I am just trying to get an idea of what our strategy is because Mr. Morris I have heard you say we are going to lower taxes.

GM- You keep saying that and we may need to go back and listen to minutes and maybe I did say we are going to lower taxes but it was not a serious comment. We can sit here all day say that but this is where we start right here. And if we can lower taxes then by all means but I am one person on the council and I have one vote that don't mean we are going to lower taxes.

RD-I will do what is in the best interest of this community and I will not make promises to lower taxes.

GM- Ok, you know where you are going with this.

Comments about Grants and road conditions were made getting off topic of the Budget Workshop by RD.

GM- We are working on it, it doesn't come over night.

Meeting was taken off topic of the actual Budget workshop by questions of what grants were being sought. It was derailed for over 15 minutes discussing grants.

Another 10 minutes was spent discussing how QuickBooks works still keeping us off topic as no Council member knows QuickBooks.

II. The workshop adjourned at 6:58 pm.



Dana Burkett, City Secretary



Patricia Harrod, Mayor