

THE SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL

AUGUST 24, 2006

THE SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL MET AT 5:30 PM ON THURSDAY AUGUST 24, 2006 FOR THE 2007 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING. PRESENT WERE COUNCIL MEMBERS CARMONY, EBERHART, SMITH, GRUBBS AND THE AUDITOR.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT EBERHART CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER. A MOTION TO SUSPEND READING THE BUDGET ESTIMATE WAS MADE BY SMITH, SECOND GRUBBS, VOTE 4-0.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS. DWAIN LAIRD REQUESTED THE COUNCIL TO REDUCE THE THIRD PAYMENT TO JUST ENOUGH TO COVER AN EMERGENCY ON THE JAIL DEBT AND THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX. MR. LAIRD NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL REDUCED THE EDIT FUNDING FROM 75% TO 35% AND INCREASED THE FUNDING OF A THIRD PAYMENT. MR. LAIRD SAID THE AUDITOR IS DIRECTED UNDER ORDINANCE 2002 TO PUT ON THE ADDITIONAL LEVY, WHICH IS IN CONFLICT WITH WHAT THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE SAID. MR. LAIRD ALSO NOTED HIS CONCERN THAT INTEREST IS NOT GOING BACK TO THE CUM FUNDS OR DEBT FUNDS TO ASSIST WITH REDUCING THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY. COUNCIL PRESIDENT EBERHART SAID THE 2002 ORDINANCE IS THE ONE IN PLACE UNTIL THE FULL COUNCIL ADOPTS A NEW ORDINANCE AND THAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE YET.


THE AUDITOR NOTED THAT THE COMMISSIONERS INCREASED THE EDIT CONTRIBUTION TO 75% FOR 2005 AND 70% FOR 2006 AND WITHDREW THE THIRD PAYMENT FOR THE JAIL AND THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX. THE AUDITOR NOTED THAT THE PUBLIC HAS PETITIONED THE STATE TAX BOARD FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS TO ELIMINATE THE LEVY. THE ISSUE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED BECAUSE THERE IS A CONFLICT WITH THE ORDINANCE ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AND THE REQUEST BY THE COMMISSIONERS. THE AUDITOR STATED THAT THE ORDINANCE ESSENTIALLY REQUIRES A THIRD PAYMENT BE LEVIED WHICH IS ALLOWABLE BY LAW BUT ALL THAT IS NECESSARY IS A BALANCE TO HANDLE REVENUE SHORTFALLS. THE AUDITOR RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL THAT THEY RESCIND THE ORDINANCE. COUNCIL PRESIDENT EBERHART SAID THIS MIGHT BE SOMETHING THAT THEY MAY DISCUSS BUT WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED TONIGHT UNTIL THERE IS A FULL COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. A MOTION TO RESCIND THE ORDINANCE WAS MADE BY GRUBBS. THE MOTION DIED FOR A LACK OF A SECOND.

THE AUDITOR NOTED THAT AS A TAXPAYER THERE WAS NO REASON WHY LOCAL TAXPAYERS SHOULD HAVE TO FILE PETITIONS TO APPEAL TO THEIR STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND AGENCIES FOR LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF COUNCIL PRESIDENT EBERHART SAID THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE NEEDS TO DISCUSS THIS.

A MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS WAS MADE BY SMITH, SECOND GRUBBS, VOTE 4-0.
A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY GRUBBS, SECOND SMITH, VOTE 4-0.

SMITH, VOTE 4-0



ATTEST

MARGARET L. BRUNK
SHELBY COUNTY AUDITOR