TOWN OF CHILHOWIE

Mayor: Gary L. Heninger

Council: Billy L. Clear
Shannon Donnelly
J. Brent Foster
Bob Jeter
Julie Sturgill
P.J. Wolfe

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Town Manager: John E. B. Clark, Jr.
Clerk/Treasurer: Felicia Eller
Police Chief: Andrew K. Moss
Director Public Works: Daniel W. Combs
Fire/EMS Chief: C. David Haynes
Building Official: C. David Haynes
Wastewater Operations: Luke A. Lowe
Water Operations: Don Cole, II
Legal: Cassell & Crewe, P.C.

Virginia: **At the continued meeting of the Council of the Town of Chilhowie held at the Municipal Building, May 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: **Honorable Gary L. Heninger, Mayor presiding; Councilors Bill Clear, Shannon Donnelly, Brent Foster, and P.J. Wolfe.**

Absent: **Councilors Bob Jeter and Julie Sturgill**

Also Present: **Mr. John E.B. Clark, Jr., Town Manager; Mrs. Felicia Eller, CMC, Clerk-Treasurer; and Messrs. Paul Cassell, Town Attorney**

Public Hearing:

- Public Hearing Notice of Proposed Real Property Tax Increase – Mrs. Eller presented the following:

Notice of Public Hearing
Of Proposed Real Property Tax Increase
Town of Chilhowie, Virginia

The Town of Chilhowie proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 35.9 percent.
2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be 12.2 cents per $100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
3. Effective Rate Increase: The Town of Chilhowie proposes to adopt a tax rate of 17 cents per $100, or 39.3 percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of Town of Chilhowie will exceed last year's by 23.9 percent.

A public hearing on the increase will be held on May 23, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Chilhowie Town Hall, 325 East Lee Highway.

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Mayor Heninger opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

No one wished to speak.

Mayor Heninger closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Paul Cassell, Town Attorney, stated due to the State Law a Public Hearing mut be held when there is a net increase of revenue from property reassessments. In 2023-2024 the revenue for property assessments was $210,654. Adopting a tax rate of 17 cents per $100 would give the Town a net increase of revenue of $261,184.00

New Business:

- Paving of Dog Park Parking Area – The Town requested bids for paving the Dog Park parking area in the Smyth County News and Messenger on May 15th and May 18, 2024. The bid closed on May 23, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. The Town received two bids. After much deliberation Council decided to postpone paving the parking area at the Dog Park and spread gravel instead.

Motion by Bill Clear, second by Brent Foster Council approves to rebid the Paving of Dog Park Parking area at a later date. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Absent	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Closed Session:

- Discussion of Interview for Town Manager Position – Justification 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, as Amended -

Motion by Shannon Donnelly, second by P.J. Wolfe and unanimously passed Council hereby enters into Closed Session under Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia as amended, to discuss Administrative Personnel. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Aye	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Absent
Julie Sturgill	Absent	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Motion by Brent Foster, second by Shannon Donnelly and unanimously passed Council hereby enters into Open Session. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Aye	Shannon Donnelly	Aye

Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Absent
Julie Sturgill	Absent	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Certification of Closed Session

The Town of Chilhowie has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia requires a certificate by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Chilhowie hereby certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certificate applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.

Approved with the following roll call vote:

Bill Clear	Aye	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Absent
Julie Sturgill	Absent	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Motion by Brent Foster, second by Bill Clear Council approves to hire Brian Martin as Town Manager pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding, background check and authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Aye	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Absent
Julie Sturgill	Absent	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Motion by Brent Foster, second by Bill Clear Council adjourns this meeting at 7:44 p.m. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Aye	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Absent
Julie Sturgill	Absent	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

_____ Mayor
Gary L. Heninger

_____ Clerk
Felicia Eller, CMC