

A special meeting of the Brandenburg City Council was held March 6, 2025 @ 4:30pm @ Brandenburg City Hall.

**PRESENT:**

David Pace, Mayor  
Amy Haynes, City Clerk  
Brian Haag, Chief

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Rhonda Allen  
Bruce Fackler  
Grant Wiles  
Donna Brown  
Mark Spry  
David Woodward

**VISITORS:** Gene Webster (WVIH), Joe Hager (Messenger), Scotty & Mandy Williams, Bonnie Oblander, Kristin Hinkle

The special meeting was called to order @ 4:37pm. Mayor Pace explained to the audience and Council, that this was for discussion of the 3 ordinances listed on the agenda. He then gave a brief synopsis of how the Council had reached the point we are at with the 3 tabled ordinances. He reiterated that regarding Ordinance #637 – Business & Occupation License Fees, if it is implemented at the March regular council meeting, that businesses will only have to report their quarterly wages in 2025, and that zero payments would be due. He then noted that as the ordinance is currently written, in 2026 the percentage would be 1/3 %, and in 2027 the percentage could be raised to ½ % if need be.

Councilman Woodward then stated that he would like to see us propose a budget for 2025/2026 cutting what we can from expenses. And asked what number the City Clerk and Mayor would be comfortable with as a budget overage. He then stated that if we left the ordinance tabled until April, we would be able to update the current budget numbers for the present quarter and see where we are at moneywise.

Councilman Spry stated that he would like to see us just implement an even 1% tax across the board, rather than complicating things with the 1/3%. He then gave examples of other communities.

Mayor Pace then listed some examples of “unplanned for” expenses which the City has already had to contend with this year, including snow events and river flooding.

Councilperson Brown agreed with Woodward that we should wait to un-table the ordinance until we had updated budget expenditures through March. She then mentioned that if the City’s goal was to generate approximately \$400,000.00, taking the median income (gathered by a citizen) at 1/3% should generate approximately \$342,000.00. She also believes that the cap of \$75,000.00 should be removed or raised, but a minimum salary cap of \$20,000.00 should be implemented. Mayor Pace and City Clerk Haynes noted that the issue with the minimum salary cap would be that often times employees are making less than \$20,000.00 at one job, will possibly hold other jobs throughout the year as well, and it would be impossible to track their total yearly income.

Councilperson Woodward then suggested the percentage remain at 0% indefinitely until it can be proven that additional funds are needed. At this point Chief Haag reiterated that we currently have zero room for growth in our budget, and as a result the need for more officers, or the replacement of 2 vehicles is impossible to implement.

Mayor Pace then explained again after much discussion that the ordinance is written in such a way that we would be able to produce the “real numbers” that the citizens are asking for as to what type of income the tax would generate. He noted that if we had the reporting only for 2025 implemented at the March meeting, then business owners who are already reporting their quarterly wages to other agencies would only have to add sending those numbers to the City also.

Again, after much discussion, Councilperson Fackler asked if the consensus was that the ordinance be rewritten to have no cap on minimum or maximum reporting requirements, and that it would be 0% until at least November of 2025, when the Council could revisit implementing a rate for 2026? The majority of the Council seemed to be in favor of rewriting the ordinance for 2025 only at the 0% but requiring quarterly reporting. Fackler then mentioned that there are several issues that the City is unable to address due to the lack of funding, such as the erosion of our riverbank, and that without extra income, the City could lose valuable portions of our Riverfront Park.

City Clerk Amy Haynes was then instructed to consult with the City Attorney on re-writing the ordinance to take out the current maximum salary listed, and the additional year’s percentage rates. So, the ordinance would only address the year 2025, and later in the year the Council could amend the ordinance to implement the percentage needed for 2026 & beyond.

Councilperson Brown then asked about the other 2 ordinances on the agenda regarding the restaurant tax and the tourism commission. She stated that rather than leave them tabled, she would like to remove them altogether. Mayor Pace stated that leaving them tabled would allow the Council to bring them back at a point in the future when they may need to be revisited for additional income.

Mayor Pace then asked if anyone had anything further to add, and with no response, Councilman Fackler made a motion to adjourn the special meeting, which was seconded by Spry. Vote of motion was unanimous.

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David W. Pace, Mayor

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Amy M. Haynes, City Clerk / Treasurer