

A special meeting of the Brandenburg City Council was held June 23, 2025 @ 6:00pm @ Brandenburg City Hall Maintenance Building

**PRESENT:**

David Pace, Mayor  
Amy Haynes, City Clerk  
Brian Haag, Chief  
Jessica Roberts, Attorney

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

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

**VISITORS:** Gene Webster (WVIH), Joe Hager (Messenger), Brian Chism, Ronnie Joyner, Shannon Slack, WHAS News Team, and various other visitors not signed in.

The special meeting was called to order @ 6:10pm.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #652 – Relating to Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicles:**

City Attorney Roberts read aloud the ordinance. Councilman Fackler asked if Hwy 933 should be added to the list of exemption roadways. Chief Haag noted that he doesn't feel it needs to be added due to the short length that actually falls within the City limits. It was also clarified that golf carts are not included in the ordinance as they do not meet the special purpose vehicle requirements.

**Community Input regarding Ordinance #648 – Business & Occupation License Fees**

Chief Haag informed the crowd that anyone signed up to speak must address the Mayor and the Council, not the other attendees. He also noted that there would not be any back and forth exchanges between the Council or Mayor with the public during the open session.

The first speaker was Ronnie Joyner, a previous Mayor and City Council member of the City of Brandenburg. He stated that he felt that the Council should work together for the betterment of the City, and that they should all be able to agree that the money has to come from somewhere to make up the shortfalls in the General Fund. He stated that around 2019, the Council had voted to implement Hazardous Retirement for the Police Department, which came at a large cost both then and now. That along with the raising of minimum wage and the fact that good hard-working individuals are difficult to find at only \$15-\$20/hourly are just a few of the reasons that the City is experiencing stress on funding. He stated that he was supportive of both an occupational tax, as well as a restaurant tax should it be needed as well.

The next speaker was Brian Chism, who had addressed the Council numerous times in the past regarding the occupational tax. He started by commending 3 of the Councilmembers for "voting for transparency at the last meeting while the other 4 shunned the transparency". He stated that even the City's auditor had stated that the City was "flush with cash", and yet everyone is asking what the money is needed for with no "clear answers". He noted that he had attended the meetings where the budget was read and voted on, and not one time where questions asked about how to spend the money the City does have "better". He stated that the Council should "listen to the people who pay for your paychecks – Mark".

The final speaker was Shannon Slack, a City resident and business owner who had also addressed the Council previously. She stated that she took it upon herself to review Kentucky cities with similar populations in the state of Ky, and found that most often the occupational tax, or lack thereof, was not a factor "in her opinion". She said overall 18 cities fell into her criteria. She noted she has read all the information on the ordinances, attended the meetings, and understands that improvements to the parks, additional police officers, and other expenditures are all good reasons to want to implement the tax, but also that as a business owner "barely making ends meet" she wants to know confidently that the Council will use the funds in ways to improve the City if the ordinance is passed.

#### **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #648:**

The ordinance was read aloud in summary by Attorney Roberts.

Mayor Pace asked the Council if they have any questions or comments.

Councilman Spry made a motion that we alter the ordinance to allow for a minimum salary cap of \$20,000, and a maximum salary cap of \$200,000.00. The motion was seconded by Rhonda Allen.

Councilmember Brown then asked what the difference would be in expected revenue with the minimum and maximum added. The estimate is vague because only a few people responded to the survey which was mailed out, but the Mayor stated he believes a good estimate would be in the approximate \$500,000 range. Councilman Woodward then stated that he would like for the City to put off the vote on the ordinance until after the July meeting because he is putting together a presentation on the infrastructure of the City and the many issues which need to be resolved due to the age. Some examples are that one of our wells is within 30 feet of falling into the river, the water mains on many streets are outdated, and the lift stations need attention. He urged that the vote be put off until after the July meeting. A vote was then taken by rollcall regarding implementing the 2 caps into the ordinance. The votes were as follows: Fackler, Spry, Allen, & Wiles voting yes, and Woodward and Brown voting no.

Brown then asked why we took the caps off previously and now wanted them reinstated?

Councilperson Woodward then made a motion that we put off the vote until after the July meeting, which was seconded by Brown. In a rollcall vote Fackler stated that he thinks we have put off a vote long enough. Fackler, Spry, and Wiles vote "No" to putting off the vote, Brown, Allen, and Woodward voted "Yes" to delaying the vote. The Mayor stated that he understands what type of information Woodward will be presenting is important for the Council to understand the City's infrastructure but still cast his vote as "No" to delaying the vote and to break the tie as he feels it has no bearing on the General Fund income.

A motion was then made by Councilmember Spry to raise the rate from .33% to .50%. The motion failed without a second.

A motion was then made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Mark Spry, to approve the ordinance with the only change being the placement of the \$20,000 minimum and \$200,000 maximum cap. The rollcall vote was as follows: Woodward, Wiles, and Brown voting "No", and Fackler, Spry, and Allen voting "Yes". Mayor Pace stated that he believes that a tie vote usually would mean that there is a lack of pertinent information, but in this case, the Council has had a years' worth of meetings, a committee had been formed, and public hearings had been held on this topic, so he feels that it has been discussed repeatedly and the City needed this to be decided. As a result, Mayor Pace voted "Yes" to break the tie, and the ordinance passed with the applicable changes.

A motion was made by Mark Spry, seconded by Rhonda Allen, to adjourn the special meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

---

David W. Pace, Mayor

---

Amy M. Haynes, City Clerk / Treasurer