

**MAY 27, 2025
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MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION
VERSAILLES MUNICIPAL BUILDING/8:30 A.M.**

ROLL CALL: MAYOR LAURA DAKE PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING. ALSO PRESENT WERE COUNCIL MEMBERS MARY BRADLEY, LISA JOHNSON, GARY JONES, ANN MILLER, AND FRED SIEGELMAN. CITY ATTORNEY BILL MOORE WAS ALSO PRESENT. COUNCIL MEMBER CHANTEL BINGHAM WAS ABSENT.

DEPT. HEADS: MITZI DELIUS, BART MILLER, T.A. RANKIN, ELIZABETH REYNOLDS, AND ROB YOUNG WERE PRESENT REPRESENTING THEIR DEPARTMENTS.

Mayor Dake opened the Work Session stating that today's meeting had been scheduled to discuss the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. She noted that everyone had received a draft line-item budget at the last council meeting, as well as a copy of her budget address that she read at that meeting. She welcomed any specific questions or discussion regarding the proposed budget.

Mayor Dake stated that City of Midway Mayor Vandegrift had reached out to her to discuss Midway's portion of the Versailles Police Department operating budget. Ms. Dake stated that the current contract has Midway's portion going to 6.5% for FY2026 which would equal approximately \$454,000. She noted that the contract increased their percentage over the last three years from 4.25% (FY2023) to 4.5% (FY2024) to 5.5% for the current year. The contract then has their portion at 6.5% per year through 2033. They are paying \$351,152 for the current year. Mayor Dake noted that Mayor Vandegrift stated that they cannot afford the climbing costs and that Midway is seriously considering switching to Kentucky State Police for their police services. She stated that in their discussions they had agreed on a reduced flat amount of \$401,566, rather than a percentage of operating costs, and that Midway is requesting that the contract be amended to have a flat amount for the next two-three years.

Council member Siegelman stated that the Versailles City Council has a responsibility to the taxpayers of Versailles. He spoke on the rising costs of policing and expressed his opinion that the 6.5% is more than fair to the City of Midway.

Council member Johnson asked how the 6.5% was calculated? City Clerk Reynolds stated that it was based on the population of Midway, which is 6.5% of the county.

Council member Jones stated that he will support giving them the lower cost of \$401,566 for the upcoming year and suggested we further discuss the following years.

Chief Young noted that Midway's needs are small overall but that the Versailles Police Department is able to provide a lot of services that Kentucky State Police will not provide. He noted that Midway pays zero toward capital and that 12% of the call volume is in Midway.

Council member Siegelman reiterated his opinion that Midway should pay the full \$454,000 per the contract.

Council member Miller stated that she is okay with giving them the lower amount for FY2026. Council member Johnson also expressed her support of the lower amount.

Mayor Dake stated that a contract amendment will be presented to the council for the Fiscal Year 2026 amount.

Council member Siegelman asked about the Chamber not being funded under the non-profit appropriations. Mayor Dake stated that it had been moved to the Events budget as a Twilight Festival Sponsorship in the amount of \$5,000. She noted that in the current fiscal year, the city has funded them nearly \$21,000.

Council member Johnson added that the Chamber is a member funded organization with income.

Mayor Dake and the council further discussed the proposed budget which includes the promotion of Mitzi Delius to a newly created department director position and reduces the Public Works Director's oversight of water and sewer departments. They also discussed a new position being created of Assistant Utilities Director.

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Mayor Dake also noted that they went ahead and paid off the \$2 million loan from enterprise to general fund recently.

Council member Siegelman stated that he would like to propose a 5% pay raise instead of the 3% that is included in the proposed budget. He referenced the safety of the city as well as the minimal amount of turnover. Mayor Dake noted that budget discussions began February and he should have brought that recommendation up before now.

Mayor Dake stated that with the loss of Yokohama, the unknown that of what will happen in Washington, and the Bond Anticipation Note coming due in August, 2026, she would like to keep the budget modest.

Fire Chief T.A. Rankin announced that the Battalion Chief position, which will lead the new Fire Science Program, has been filled. He stated that local resident Max Davis has accepted the position and will begin June 2nd. Mr. Davis is currently employed full-time with Franklin County Fire and also serves part-time on the Versailles Fire Department.

Mayor Dake adjourned the meeting without objections.

APPROVED:

LAURA DAKE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH C. REYNOLDS, CITY CLERK