

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION HELD AT THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY,
GEORGIA ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 AT 10:00 AM, 696 SKY VALLEY WAY (OLD LODGE)**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor MacNair, Councilors Larsen, Piontkowski, & Wheeler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilors Durpo & Howard

STAFF PRESENT: City Clerk Fast and Deputy Clerk Mullins

1. Call to Order

Mayor MacNair called the meeting to order.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Councilor Piontkowski, unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discussion for the 2019 Budget

City Clerk Ella Fast thanked everyone for coming. She stated that she is currently working on the budget putting some amounts and figures together. She asked to have this meeting so she could ask council questions as she still looking at the budget as a preliminary basis. She stated the millage rate needs to be set as soon as possible and would like to set the millage rate at the same time that the budget is adopted. City Clerk Fast has reviewed revenues and asked for suggestions in possibly some increases although that is not highly favored. She explained how decreasing the homestead exemption in half would increase revenues by \$19,000. Councilor Piontkowski said there are 97 residents filing a homestead exemption. He said they would be penalized for taking up the slack for the rest of the homes who do not file the exemption. City Clerk Fast went over possible increases in rates for water and garbage services on a sliding scale. City Clerk Fast also mentioned upgrading equipment and looking for some source of revenue in addition to what the city currently has. Resident Ed Steil asked what the projected cost increases are and where are they. City Clerk Fast said she is looking at capital as there is equipment that is out of date. Telemetry was recently down and had to be upgraded. Resident Debbie McAfee asked about increases in cost of machinery and why are costs going up. City Clerk Fast said some of the city equipment is old and would cost more to fix then to replace it. Resident Ed Steil asked if there was still money in capital improvement account and City Clerk Fast said there were still funds there but was unclear of the figure. Councilor Wheeler explained not all records are available as there are some records not found for an open records request for previous years SPLOST. Discussion went on about auditing and figures that are readily available as the budget process is ongoing. Councilor Piontkowski stated that the city needs time to sort through everything. City Clerk Fast said she is working on figures and just needs time to put out true figures. Resident Steve Mason said he heard there was difficulty finding staff for the police department. Mayor MacNair commented that the department has budgeted for an increase for another officer and the police chief has been looking and the job has been advertised. Chief Estes stated that are zero applicants and it is not a popular profession. He said it's not just here in Sky Valley but other cities and counties are having difficulty with staffing their departments. Resident Steve Mason asked how many more budget meetings will be held. City Clerk stated there would be a minimum of two more meetings and

explained the process of what has to be advertised with the budget and millage rate process.


OTHER BUSINESS

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Wheeler, seconded by Councilor Piontkowski, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert MacNair, Mayor


Ella Fast, City Clerk