

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE FOR THE 2021 AD VALOREM TAXES HELD ON A TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M. VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) AT THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Steil and Councilors Morley, Turner, Curtis, and Oliver

THOSE ABSENT: Councilor Allred

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman and City Clerk Fleming

Intro:

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed 2022 budget as well as the proposed millage rate for the 2021 Ad Valorem taxes. The budget and millage rate are on the agenda to be adopted at a Special Called Council Meeting on October 26th at 10:00 A.M.

GENERAL FUND

- In opposition to
- In favor of

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

WATER & SOLID WASTE FUND

- In opposition to
- In favor of

City Manager Streetman gave an overview of the \$1,380,459, 2022 Budget, and explained the \$259,186 increase from the 2021 Budget of \$1,121,273. This will be an 23% increase over last year's budget. The increases in property values will reflect a tax increase of approximately \$88,000 which will be devoted entirely to roads and road maintenance.

Anticipated Revenues for General Fund:

Property Taxes, Franchise Taxes, Permit Fees, Grants, Fines, Hotel/Motel, Sale of Assets, and Penalties and Interest. Revenue shown as percentages: Property Taxes 73%, Charges 12%, Investments 7%, Grants 5%, and Misc. 3%.

General Fund Expenditures:

Administration - \$280,594, Buildings/Grounds \$148,800, Police \$399,996, Fire \$93,205, Roads \$376,150 and Miscellaneous \$81,714.

Enterprise/Combined Utility

Anticipated Revenue for Water:

Water Fees \$440,00, Tap-On Fees \$7,500, Late Fees \$3,500, and Bank Interest \$1,500. Equating to \$452,500.

Water Expenditures:

Salaries/Benefits \$166,217, Debt Service \$126,555, Operations \$125,900, and Capital Purchases \$23,000. Equating to \$441,672.

Anticipated Revenue for Sanitation:

Trash Collection Fees \$216,000 and Mulch Sales \$100.00. Equating to \$216,100.

Sanitation Expenditures:

Salaries/Benefits \$129,705, Operation Expense \$80,227. Equating to \$209,932.

Additionally, proposed capital expenses include:

Renovation of the Visitor's Center \$60,000, Construction of a 3rd Pickle Ball Court \$30,000, and Road Equipment plus Vehicle Payment \$30,982.

Residents Question and Comments:

Al Piontkowski, 66 Pleasant Mountain Drive, asked for an overview of the City's budget process, and if it began with Department Heads requests, and how it matches up with the City's Financial Policy?

City Manager Streetman stated the process started about three months ago. He met with James and Vaughn (Department Heads) to go over past expenditures and future needs. This process was mainly completed by Administration. He stated that yes, he as City Manager developed the 2022 budget.

Mr. Piontkowski asked if any 2021 budget amendments have been done? He feels like there is a lack of transparency and not enough meeting notices published.

It was stated that no budget amendment has been done as of date. The City has their meeting notices published in the legal organ, it is posted at City Hall, at the bulletin board located by the mailboxes, and also goes out via MailChimp (an email service that goes out to approximately 653 participants), for each and every meeting.

Mr. Piontkowski asked about the reduction of paid rent by Calderone and West. Rent was reduced due to COVID guidelines, for Calderone. She gives classes and could not follow the guidelines for social distancing so her facility was closed for a period of time and a reduction in rent was requested. The 2022 budget reflects, for rent, half the amount budgeted for 2021, due to possible renovations/use of the Welcome Center.

Other questions asked by Mr. Piontkowski included Welcome Center renovation, part-time employees, additional pickle-ball court installed, trail maintenance, and additional landscaping. He also asked if the renters at the Welcome Center had been notified of the changes for 2022 and if this was the first public meeting that the Council has had concerning the reviewing of the 2022 proposed budget.

The answers included that the projects proposed were based on feedback from the Survey that went out to the residents of Sky Valley, approximately a year and a half ago. Calderone and West have been notified that no annual rent contract will be executed but will continue on a month-to-month basis. The proposed 2022 budget was sent to Mayor and Council for review but yes this is the second meeting (first one was at the 9:30 Public Hearing held this morning) that the Mayor and Council have had concerning the proposed budget. The third meeting will be held at 9:30 on October the 26th and any unanswered questions will be addressed at that time.

No further questions/comments were made.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hollie Steil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Hollie Steil, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Karen Fleming, City Clerk