

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING THAT WAS HELD ON A THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021, AT 9:30 A.M. VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA

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

THOSE ABSENT: Councilor Curtis

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. No additional public hearings are scheduled. 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 stated that this was the final public hearing concerning the proposed 2022 budget and proposed millage rate for the 2021 Ad Valorem taxes. He proceeded with a brief overview of the 2022, \$1,380, 459, proposed budget.

City Manager Streetman addressed three unanswered questions from Al Piontkowski, at the October 19th Public Hearing:

- Who pays for the landscaping by the sign on 246? Mark Wannamaker, the contracted landscaper, cuts the grass while working at the entrance of Winding Ridge, at no additional cost. The Country Club paid for the landscaping.
- What was the budget creation policy? City Manager Streetman stated that he was not aware of the City's Financial Policy, but he used the Best Management Practices and Policies which aligns with the City's. He did begin the budget process in June.
- Was \$25,000 moved from the Police Department's Budget for the funding of a bucket truck? The City Manager doesn't have the authority to do interfund transfers from one department to another, nor to do budget amendments.

Additional questions/comments during the Public Hearing:

Ken Walton, 517 Ridgepole Drive, stated that he was in support of the constructing of an additional pickle-ball court.

Grace Guess, 179 Fairway Lane, stated that she supports the proposed budget. Sky Valley looks great, feels great, and thanks to the Mayor/Council for all the positive things that have been done for the City.

Al Piontkowski, 66 Pleasant Mountain Drive, asked if City employees would be receiving a pay increase and why "Roads" health insurance was so high. City Manager answered yes, a 5% COLA increase and the health insurance increase was based on a \$700 City allowance, per employee. Mr. Piontkowski also asked questions/comments concerning the Marketing Budget and he feels the money earmarked for the Welcome Center renovations, pickle-ball court, and trail maintenance would be better spent on contracting out the clearing of the tree canopies overhanging the City roads. Additional concerns, he expressed, are transparency, not having in-person meetings, and the property taxes going up by 8%. The public hearings were held by zoom, due to outbreak of COVID with City staff, property taxes went up due to re-evaluations. The City public workers will be using the bucket truck while working on the tree canopies.

David Car, formerly of 455 Driver Lane, answered some questions and made some comments on the pickle-ball court discussion.

Chip Durpo, 604 Alex Mountain, asked if the millage rate was increased this year. City Manager Streetman stated that the millage rate has been the same since 2019. Mr. Durpo would like to see the meetings being held in-person and via zoom, simultaneously.

No further questions/comments were made.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor



Karen Fleming, City Clerk