

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON A TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023
AT 3608 HWY 246 (NEW CITY HALL) & VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) SKY VALLEY GA 30537**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steil, Councilors Darrah, Oliver, Turner, Allred, and Curtis

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, and Communications Specialist Van Camp

Intro:

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed ordinance to increase the hotel/motel tax rate from 5% to 8% with an effective date of July 1, 2023.

Hotel/motel tax increase from 5% to 8%

Mayor Steil asked City Manager Streetman to go over the pending Ordinance to change the current Hotel/Motel Tax from 5% to 8%. City Manager Streetman stated that House Bill 59 was passed at the 2023 regular session of the Georgia General Assembly authorizing imposition of a excise tax of up to eight percent. The distribution of the funds would also be changed: 43.75% to a Destination Marketing Organization, such as Forward Rabun, 37.5% to the City's General Fund, 18.75% to a Tourism Product Development such as a brick & mortar, pickleball courts, and hiking trails. This would give the city the ability to do more things.

Councilor Curtis stated that this would help with marketing efforts and help with the burden of the Police Department concerning short-term rentals and septic measures. This would also help with not having to increase property taxes. Karla Stahl, 74 Red Wolf Trail, commented on the process of collecting the tax as the formula is hard to figure and also there is a lot of paperwork to keep up with. She requested that the formula be changed and asked who was going to monitor the submission. Councilor Allred stated that the formula is a state statute. Councilor Darrah stated that the process will be addressed under the pending Short Term Rental Ordinance.

As no further comments were made, the public hearing adjourned at 9:19 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attested:



Karen Fleming, City Clerk