

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON A TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024, AT 9:00 A.M. AT 3608 HWY. 246 AND VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Allred

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

Mayor Steil called the hearing to order at 9:00 a.m. and City Manager Streetman read the following introduction:

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed 2025 budget as well as the proposed millage rate for the 2024 Ad Valorem taxes. No additional public hearings are scheduled. The budget and millage rate are on the agenda to be adopted at the Special Called Council Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

General Fund Budget, Enterprise Fund/Combined Utilities, Marketing and T-SPLOST Funds, were discussed and time allowed for comments.

General Fund Budget

City Manager Streetman stated that the 2025 proposed General Fund Budget is \$1,533,910. The proposed rollback millage rate is 9.609 with a zero-tax increase. He stated that the millage rate has been rolled back six mills since 2021. A presentation was given showing the following: Key Revenue Sources – Property Taxes \$1,025,836, Franchise Taxes \$62,500, Permits \$166,050, Grants \$88,524, Hotel/Motel at 8% \$72,000, Misc. Fines/Interest \$119,000. How our Revenue is Diversified: Property Taxes 67%, Int/Misc/Penalties/Fines 8%, Grants/Hotel-Motel 10%, Franchise Fee 4%, and License Permits 11%. General Fund Expenditures: Admin \$385,043, Bldg./Grounds \$86,750, Police \$521,223, Fire \$160,137, and Roads \$247,411, Miscellaneous \$133,346. Key points to consider – By doing a true rollback of the millage rate, there will be no increase in property taxes. Funding sources that allow this to happen include Hotel/motel taxes, grants, and T-SPLOST. With T-SPLOST, General Fund expenditures that would normally come out of the roads budget for maintenance are deferred to the T-SPLOST and reducing the burden of funding road expenditures out of the General Fund. With this proposed balanced budget, the following increases in expenditures are noted: 15% increase in Workers Comp./Property and Liability Insurance and 22% increase in payments to Sky Valley/Scaly Mtn. Volunteer Fire and Resue for fire protection.

Mayor Steil thanked City Manager Streetman for all of his hard work on the proposed budget, the City's Infrastructure, and future improvements.

Councilor Curtis commented that possibly the City should negotiate with the Fire Department concerning how many mills of the tax digest, that they receive. The City has to do cutbacks so the Fire

Department should share in these cutbacks. Councilor Oliver stated that the fire department just had a public meeting to address how the money is spent. Their budget contains training which will help to keep our ISO rating low, but we need to get more detailed information. Mayor Steil stated that they provide a wonderful service.

John Lewis, 78 View Lane, asked a couple of questions: 1. Water supply issues? 2. How is the widening of Evergreen Road going to be funded? City Manager Streetman told him that his questions will be answered as he continues with his presentation.

Enterprise Fund/Combined Utilities

Anticipated water revenue, \$535,400 with the expenditures at \$524,251, leaving \$11,149 in surplus.

Anticipated sanitation revenue, \$218,500 with the expenditures at \$217,972, leaving \$528 in surplus.

City Manager Streetman stated that the city has 17 pressure reducing valves that will be re-built throughout the city at a cost of \$3,000 each, and the water lines are typically expanded with better piping during a water break event. Also, the water and trash rates will stay the same.

No public comments were made.

Marketing

City Manager Streetman stated that historically the Marketing Committee has received \$5,000 each from the Country Club, City, and Property Owners Association. Timeshares of Sky Valley may join this year at another \$5,000 so the anticipated budget for 2025 is proposed at \$20,000. The 2025 anticipated expenditures would include, professional services, communications, advertising, and general supplies and materials.

No public comments were made.

T-SPLOST Fund

City Manager Streetman stated that as of date the approximate amount received from T-SPLOST funding is \$900,000 with the anticipated amount to be received for 2025, \$755,380. The breakdown of the anticipated revenue is \$10,000 in interest and \$745,380 from T-SPLOST. Expenditures would include \$565,380 Road repair/maintenance, \$75,000 general supplies and materials, \$115,000 Capital Outlay (New F450 & Kubota Excavator). Totaling \$755,380.

Mr. Lewis asked about the traffic that is using Evergreen. His thought was that construction crews were using the road as a shortcut to Highlands which City Manager Streetman told him that he didn't think so as it would not be a shortcut and as Sky Valley has a lot of construction going on as well.

Evergreen Way will be widened in 2025 by 18 ft. and even 19 ft. in places. The roads that will be resurfaced include Driver, E. Sugarbush, Saddleback, Stillwater, Lost Valley.

No other comments were made.

Councilor McAfee made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hollie Steil". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Karen Fleming, City Clerk