

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024, AT 10:00 AM. AT 3608 HWY 246 & VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) SKY VALLEY, GA 30537.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steil, council members: Allred, Oliver, McAfee, Turner, and Curtis

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

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:00AM and stated that 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. The budget and millage rate are on the agenda to be adopted at a Special Called Council Meeting on November 12, 2024, at 10:00 am. Mayor Steil stated that the city charter required the city to adopt a balanced budget every year and City Manager Streetman has presented a proposed general fund budget that represents a true millage rate roll back from the current 11.5742 to the proposed 9.609 and would result in a zero-tax increase. In addition, the proposed budget would allow the city to provide cost of living allowances for city employees and did not touch any of the city's reserves to balance. This proposed budget has been modified from the original proposal that originally showed a tax increase. Mayor Steil stated that city manager Streetman had a power point presentation but before he would present, called for comments from the council.

Council member Oliver stated he had when through the budget line by line and thanked the mayor and city manager for their hard work in drafting a balanced budget that included a true rollback, particularly with ever rising costs.

Council member McAfee made mention that this would be the third year in a row that the city has been able to roll back the millage rate for a zero-tax increase.

Council member Allred stated the importance of a roll back when possible.

Council member Curtis said the council is committed to keep Sky Valley wonderful and accepts the challenges to preserve what makes Sky Valley special and thanked City Manager Streetman for being able to manage the city's funds to try and keep expenditures as low as possible. Furthermore, he stated that rollbacks year over year are probably not sustainable.

Mayor Steil asked City manager Streetman to go into his presentation for the General Fund Budget, Enterprise Fund/Combined Utilities, Marketing and TSPLOST Funds and allowed time for comments/questions afterwards.

GENERAL FUND

Revenue: City manager Streetman stated that with the proposed millage rate rollback, the overall budget with other sources of revenue would total \$1,533,910 an increase over the current budget of \$1,499,999 and that property taxes would make up approximately 67% of the budget.

Furthermore, other funding sources include grants, permits, fines, fees, hotel/motel revenue and penalties and interest.

Expenditures: City manager Streetman provided a breakdown of how funds would be spent with police making up 34%, fire 10%, city hall 25% roads, building & grounds 6%, roads 16% and misc. 9% respectively.

Upon power point presentation conclusion, the floor was opened to the public.

Carey Beasley- 539 Overlook asked what fell under misc. expenses and City manager Streetman items such as courts, elections, executive & legislative (mayor & council), cultural / recreational ex. fireworks, hay bale trail, Independence Day and fall fests, code enf./ building inspections and economic development.

Steve Mason- 38 Pleasant Mtn. asked what made up the capital lease purchases for the current year and city manager Streetman stated the police chief vehicle and part of the costs for an F450. Mason also asked about the pressure relief valves and City manager Streetman stated there were 17 within the city and the city was rebuilding them one at a time and hoped to have this done before the end of this calendar year. Mason stated that he felt the city should put more focus on the water system instead of the road system within the city.

Barbara Kobacker-407 Pleasant Mtn asked City Manager Streetman whether or not the water loans have been paid off and Streetman stated they had not and the city was a little over half way paying off the loans that were for a period of 20 years.

Robert Smalley- online via zoom- 103 Buttermilk Circle asked should the city consider raising taxes to fund water system improvements. Council member McAfee stated that it would cost millions of dollars to do a complete overhaul of the water system.

Enterprise Fund- Water

Revenue: City manager Streetman discussed the water fund and total anticipated revenues of \$535,400 comprised of water fees, tap fees, Servline fees, and penalties/interest.

Expenditures: City manager Streetman stated an anticipated amount of \$524,251 comprised of salaries/benefits, operations, debt service (interest on GEFA loan) and annual capital lease payment on F450.

Steve Mason 38 Pleasant Mtn asked was there money set aside to deal with leaks and city manager Streetman stated we have funded the repairs out of the operations budget as they happen.

Enterprise Fund- Trash

Revenue: City manager Streetman stated that trash revenue comes from service fees and is anticipated to be around \$218,500.

Expenditures: City manager Streetman stated that expenditure are made up of personal and operational cost with an estimation of \$217,972.

There was no comments regarding the water or trash budget.

Marketing-

City manager Streetman stated that Mr. Gordon Brand who is the marketing committee chairman is working on a FY25 budget with plans to present to the council soon for approval. The city has set aside \$5k in the general fund budget to go towards and match the property owners association and country club at \$5,000 each too.

TSPLOST

Revenue: City manager stated that TSPLOST funds continue to come in every month and based on what we have in the bank now and what we are anticipated to receive, the proposed budget could actually be higher. The budget is set based on what we hope to realistically do in a given budget year. The proposed revenue for FY2025 is \$755,380.

Expenditures: City manager stated that anticipated costs will go towards resurfacing roads, supplies and equipment and capital equipment to include an F450 truck and a Kubota Excavator.

Barbara Kobacker-407 Pleasant Mtn asked how the city determines what roads get resurfaced. City manager Streetman stated we look at the volume of traffic, the number of homes on the road and the overall condition of the road. City manager Streetman that Pleasant Mtn. Road is planned to be resurfaced in the near future.

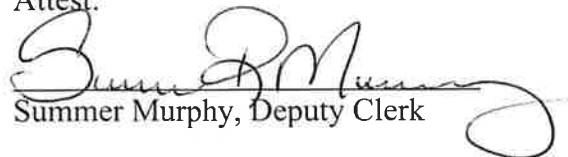
There was no other comments. Seeing none, Mayor Steil stated that the next public hearing would be today at 5PM here at city hall and adjourned the meeting at 10:56AM.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attest:



Summer Murphy, Deputy Clerk