

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING # 3 WHICH WAS HELD ON A TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025, AT 9:00 A.M., LOCATED AT 3608 HIGHWAY 246 SKY VALLEY, GA 30537 AND VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steil, Councilors Allred, Oliver, McAfee. Councilor Curtis via Zoom.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Turner

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, City Attorney Kidd, Police Chief Baumes, Sgt. Maloney, Building Inspector Pyburn, Communication Specialist Van Camp, and Water Coordinator English

Mayor Steil opened the meeting and stated the following:

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed 2026 budget as well as the proposed millage rate for the 2025 Ad Valorem taxes. The budget and millage rate will be on the agenda to be adopted during the Regular Council meeting following this hearing. She asked City Manager Streetman to review the proposed 2026 budget, which includes the following funds: **GENERAL FUND, ENTERPRISE FUNDS, WATER & SOLID WASTE FUND.**

City Manager Streetman stated that this is the last of the three Georgia mandated public hearings for a tax increase. The 2026 Proposed General Fund Budget, totals \$1,637,634. Key revenue sources include property tax \$1,119,633, franchise taxes \$71,500, permit/use/excise/ license fees \$146,501, grants \$105,000, fines \$46,000, hotel/motel \$71,000, short-term rental licensing \$18,000, miscellaneous, penalties/interest, \$60,000. Property tax makes up 68% of our revenue. Expenditures by department: Administration \$399,961, Building/Grounds \$84,200, Police \$589,325, Fire \$174,779, Roads \$233,625, Code Enforcement/ Et. Al \$155,744. As proposed, the millage rate would remain the same at 9.609 mils. This tax increase will generate an additional \$93,797 which is necessary to effectively and efficiently run city government. These additional funds are primarily going to public safety. The Enterprise/Combined Utility Fund for Water: total anticipated revenue would be \$558,660 versus \$553,395 in expenditures, with a surplus \$5,265. Enterprise/Combined Utility for Sanitation: total anticipated revenue - \$223,100 versus \$223,028 in expenditures, with a surplus of \$72. City Manager Streetman discussed the five-year history of levy and property digest. The following are the totals by year: **2020 \$61,939,139, 2021 \$67,82,668, 2022 \$80,554,382, 2023 \$90,120,965, 2024 \$109,492,204, 2025 \$119,224,608.** The tax digest went up but the City has lowered the millage rate for the past three years. The millage rate was 15.608 in **2021**, 12.9914 in **2022**, 11.5742 in **2023**, and 9.609 in **2024**. The computation for a non-tax increase would have resulted in a rollback rate which would have dropped the millage rate again to 9.012 mils.

Mayor Steil thanked him for his presentation and asked the Council if they had any questions or comments and they did not. She then asked the attendees at the hearing if they had any questions or comments.

Steve Mason, 38 Pleasant Mountain, stated that a conservative budget increase would be 20%. He went over some of the increases by percentages, 38% to 3%, and asked why the Roads Dept. would only be a 3% increase. City Manager Streetman told him that the recently passed TSPLOST would be used to pay for equipment, repairs, and materials for the Roads Department. The increase was primarily for salaries and insurance.

There was no presentation for a TSPLOST budget as the proposed budget was prepared before the vote on November 4, 2025. A presentation will come at a later date.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonita Cottam Orr

Hollie Steil, Mayor
Bonita Cottam-Orr

Attest:

Karen Fleming

Karen Fleming, City Clerk