

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester
Public Hearing
City Hall Council Chambers
Wednesday, September 25, 2024
Call to Order 10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.
Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1
Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2
City Manager Chris Davis
Assistant City Manager Richie Childers
Assistant City Manager Tanita Norris
City Clerk Markesha Bivens

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Giddens, Ward 3
Councilman Earnest Carter, Jr., Ward 4
City Attorney Lester Castellow

Call to Order: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

Invocation/Pledge: Mrs. Judy Hall

With the proper notice of date and time advisement and public notice requirements satisfied, Mayor Proctor thanked everyone for their attendance. The purpose for this Special Called Meeting is to hear public comments on the proposed millage rate.

City Manager Chris Davis provided details of property taxes and millage rate. Prior to this meeting, an informational packet was provided. Staff recommends an increase of 1 mill from the current rate of 7.379. Three public hearings are required, by Georgia law, to be held September 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and October 2, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with adoption meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Dr. Artavious Smith inquired on timing of property tax increase and high utility bills for renters in the community.

Mrs. Judy Hall informed of utility bill assistance availability in the past and the city seeking other options, such as SPLOST funding, versus increasing property taxes. Discussion of allowing rebilling for customers with water/sewer repairs were also emphasized.

Mrs. Theresa Bridges mentioned alternative ways of getting things accomplished, such as efforts on other items, not clearing railroad tracks not owned by the city.

Mr. Vincent Marshall highlighted the need for the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development to secure large businesses and improve the community with the amount of traffic that travels through the city.

Remarks

City Manager Davis confirmed of the attempts to bring in large businesses to the city and efforts of staff's cost savings.

Mayor Proctor informed of the importance of bringing ideas to the city council and voting in local elections for tax options.

Councilman Powell mentioned the requirement of the city to maintain abandoned railroads for public safety, regarding wildlife and vegetation.

Announcements

Mr. Davis provided a storm preparation update. Efforts have begun to ensure employee and citizen safety with the impending hurricane. Staff is monitoring and will meet at 3:00 p.m. to develop an action plan for Thursday and Friday's anticipated impact

Adjournment

With all agenda items covered, Councilman Jackson motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing, with a second by Councilman Powell. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Powell, and Jackson. The vote passed 3-0.

Mayor Proctor duly adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK