

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester
Special Called Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers
Monday, November 13, 2025
Call to Order 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.
Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2
Councilman Mark Giddens, Ward 3
Mayor Pro-Tem Earnest Carter, Jr., Ward 4
City Manager Chris Davis
Assistant City Manager Richie Childers
Deputy City Clerk Tenneisha Cushion

Absent: Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1
Assistant City Manager Tanita Norris
City Attorney Lester Castellow

Call to Order: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

Invocation/Pledge: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

With proper notice of date and time advised, and public notice requirements satisfied, Mayor Proctor thanked everyone for their attendance. This Special Called Meeting's purpose is to provide citizens with a better understanding of the millage rate.

City Manager Chris Davis informed the Mayor and Council that, prior to this meeting, City of Sylvester staff and representatives from the municipalities of Poulan, Sumner, Sylvester, and Warwick, along with the Worth County Board of Education, the Economic Development Authority, the Tax Appraiser's Office, and the Tax Commissioner's Office, met with the County Administrator and County staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the property value reevaluation process, outstanding appeals, and tax digest information for the 2025 millage rate.

It was noted that there are approximately \$33 million in outstanding appeals for Sylvester residents. During the joint meeting, it was discussed that waiting for finalized appeal figures could result in tax bills not being issued until April or May 2026 and could require the issuance of three (3) separate tax bills. This approach was stated to be not in the best interest of the citizens. All other municipalities and Worth County have elected to move forward by using estimated values submitted to the Worth County Tax Commissioner's Office.

The proposed millage rate is 6.177, representing the largest rollback in the City of Sylvester's history. Georgia law requires three (3) public hearings when a proposed millage rate increase occurs. The proposed public hearing dates are November 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., and December 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The vote to adopt the millage rate is scheduled to take place at the regular City Council meeting on December 1, 2025.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Remarks

There were no remarks from the Mayor and City Council.

Upon motion by Councilman Giddens, with a second by Councilman Jackson, the dates for the proposed millage rate public hearings gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, and Jackson. The vote passed 4-0.

City Manager Chris Davis reported that the Worth County High School Rams football team has qualified for the playoffs, with a game scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2025.

City Manager Davis further advised that Carter & Sloope Engineering Group will review the bids for installation of new water meters. A total of four (4) bids were received for this project.

Regarding events coordinated by Main Street Manager Karen Singletary, a request was presented for a road closure in conjunction with the Annual Turkey Trot scheduled for November 27, 2025. The event is scheduled to take place from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., beginning at Unity Baptist Church and concluding at the CVS Pharmacy. The proposed road closures mirror those used for the annual Trick-or-Treat event, with the addition of King Street and Bryant Drive.

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Carter, the request to close streets for the Annual Turkey Trot event was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Carter, Giddens, and Jackson. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

City Manager Davis also reported that work at the North Pond is currently underway, along with ongoing canal and limb clearing throughout the City. The Light Department has been working seven (7) days per week to meet the Thanksgiving holiday deadline for the installation of Christmas lights.

Additionally, City Manager Davis noted that the loan associated with the dump truck was satisfied approximately seven (7) months earlier than anticipated; also, the recently purchased fire truck has been paid in full, with each City Department reducing their spending to reach these goals.

Adjournment

With all agenda items covered, Councilman Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Councilman Powell. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, and Jackson. The vote passed, unanimously, 4-0.

Mayor Proctor duly adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

ATTEST:

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK