

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester

City Council Special Called Meeting

Public Hearing – Millage Rate

City Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. called the meeting to order.

Attendees

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2

Councilman Nykemius J. Hamilton, Sr., Ward 4

City Manager Chris Davis

Assistant City Manager Richie Childers

Assistant City Manager Tanita Norris

City Clerk Markesha Bivens

Absent

Councilman J. Mark Giddens, Ward 3

City Attorney Lester Castellow

Invocation/Pledge

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. led the invocation and pledge.

Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Public Hearing - Millage Rate

With proper notice of the date and time provided and all public notice requirements satisfied, Mayor Proctor called the Public Hearing to order and thanked the public for their attendance. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public comments regarding the proposed millage rate.

State law requires three (3) public hearings for the proposed property tax increase. The first hearing was held on September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., during the City Council Regular Meeting. This meeting served as the second public hearing to satisfy the required morning-hour hearing. The third public hearing is scheduled for September 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. during the regular meeting.

City Manager Chris Davis provided an overview of the action taken at the previous Council Meeting, which Staff recommended, and the City Council supported in favor of, a 1.5-mill increase, resulting in a millage rate of 7.677 mills after the rollback.

This option would provide a one-time increase for the year without requiring an increase in utility rates, which would otherwise have direct impact on residents' monthly expenses.

Mayor and Council Remarks

Discussion included the revaluation of property values, amendments to previous values, and a comparison of actual figures to those of the prior year. Council discussed the benefits of a one-time annual property tax increase rather than increasing utility rates monthly.

Additional discussion included continued efforts to monitor expenditures, tighten the budget, and address rising cost-of-living and energy expenses. Council discussed the proposed 1-mill and 1.5-mill increases, as well as the possibility of staff furlough days. It was noted that staff had not received raises in four (4) years but continued to fulfill duties while identifying cost-saving measures.

Public Comment

No public comments were received.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Hamilton, the Special Called Meeting was adjourned. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 4-0.

Mayor Proctor duly adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK