



120 North Essa Street, Lake Park, Georgia 31636
City Hall 229-559-7470
Fax 229-559-7499

2018 Tax Millage Rate Public Hearing Minutes August 28, 2018 6:00 PM

Mayor Pro Tem Ronald Carter called the third and final 2018 tax millage rate public hearing to order at 6:00 PM.

Those present were as follows; Mayor Pro Tem Ronald Carter, Council Members Tom Barr, Debbie Sauls and Carl Taylor, Clerk Tabatha Fowler and Connie Martinez, Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Patterson, and citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter read the announcement of the proposed millage rate.

Carter then proceeded to open the floor for anyone that wished to speak in favor or in opposition of the proposed rate.

Carter began with two written letters submitted earlier in the day in opposition to the increase in taxes in Lake Park. The first letter was from Sandra Gosier 504 Main Street Lake Park, GA, and the second letter was from Dorothy Stewart 511 Main Street Lake Park, GA 31636. (See attached)

Richard Sell, 1013 Egret Way Lake Park, GA 31636 came forward in opposition of an increase in the millage rate. He stated he believed that the difference in question was about \$3,000 and he felt that Council could find somewhere in the budget to shave that amount and not increase taxes.

Tyler Davis, 1009 Egret Way Lake Park, GA 31636 came forward to speak in opposition of raising taxes. He spoke of previous mention on a statement that we had to adjust the mileage rate and advised he spoke with a family member whom works in a tax office and he was told that that information was not correct. He said he learned that Council can reduce, increase, or maintain the same millage rate. He further stated he agreed with the idea that Council should be able to find somewhere in the budget to cut \$3,000 and not increase taxes.

Pat Brown, 809 Main Street Lake Park, GA 31636 came forward to speak in opposition of the increase in taxes. She asked that Council remember the seniors

in the area that are on fixed incomes and that they have a hard enough time paying their bills and buying their medicine.

Bessie Marshall 509 S Main Street Lake Park, GA 31636 spoke in opposition of increase in taxes and stated she was a senior citizen and can't afford it.

Carter asked if anyone else wanted to speak. No one came forward. Mr. Carter made statement regarding the tax appraisals and the millage rate. Carter went on to state that the city didn't have any control over setting the values of property. He said we all want our property values lower when it comes to tax time but when it comes time to sell property we want it higher. He stated there were four hundred and something parcels in the city and we've only heard from a handful. He also stated that the proposed millage rate difference was approximately \$4,326. Carter further made a comment about unexpected expenditures within the city and that at some point they have to be prepared for those types of expenses.

Richard Sell, 1013 Egret Way Lake Park, GA 31636 asked if he could speak again. He came forward and said that Council must listen to those senior citizens. He said they have worked and put their time in and they don't have as much disposable income as we do. The Council needs to listen to them and stand up for them.

Being no further persons wanting to speak on behalf of the 2018 tax millage rate, public hearing adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Read & approved Johntha Walker Date 9-4-18