

Milledgeville City Council
Called Work Session
City Hall – Executive Chambers
May 21, 2018
5:15 PM

Milledgeville City Council met in a called work session on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 5:15 PM in the Executive Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Mary Parham-Copelan presiding. Members of Council present were Richard Mullins, Walter Reynolds, Jeanette Walden, Collinda J. Lee and Denese Shinholster. Alderman Steve Chambers was absent.

Others present were Barry Jarrett, Bo Danuser, Jimmy Jordan, Chiquita Danzy, Brenda Josey, Hank Griffeth, Bobby Brown and Jim Elliot.

Mayor Parham-Copelan called the meeting to order at 5:23 PM. The Clerk called roll and a quorum of members of Council was declared present.

Mayor Parham-Copelan stated that they needed to swap the order of the agenda items.

Motion Mr. Reynolds, second Mr. Mullins to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

On vote aye: Mr. Mullins, Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Walden, Dr. Lee and Ms. Shinholster. The motion carried and Council went into closed session at 5:24 PM and returned to open session at 5:30. Upon returning to open session, the Clerk called roll with Mayor Parham-Copelan and Aldermen Mullins, Reynolds, Walden, Lee and Shinholster present.

City Manager, Barry Jarrett, opened the floor for budget discussion.

Mr. Jarrett stated that the proposed budget was balanced but required a 2 mill ad valorem tax increase. He further stated that if they did not increase taxes they would have to take revenue from water and sewer fund balance. There was a discussion about increasing ad valorem taxes. Mr. Mullins expressed his disapproval of increasing taxes. The tax increase discussion continued including the tax refunds being given to city property owners due to the evaluation appeals on the County level.

There was a discussion about increasing water and sewer fees and using revenue from the soon to be retired waste water treatment plant bond to help fund a new water treatment plant.

The discussion returned to a tax increase and Council's ability to determine the amount of a tax increase, if any, in the fall when the millage rate was set.

The discussion returned to expenditures in the Water and Sewer Department.

There was a discussion about Sunday Alcohol Sales Licenses. Alderman Reynolds requested that the Sunday Sales License be eliminated and create an across the board license with a possible fee increase to offset the loss of the Sunday Sales category.

Alderwoman Walden asked about the insurance line item in the Development Authorities budget request on the house in the newly acquired industrial mega-site location. She asked how much rent was being generated on the house. There was discussion about the house being appraised at \$300,000 while only generating \$800.00 per month. There was a discussion about funding the Development Authority.

Alderman Reynolds discussed increasing the Mainstreet budget by \$6,000. He stated that it would give them an opportunity for bigger and better events. He suggested moving money from the Mayor and Aldermen's supplies line item. There was a discussion on Mainstreet funding.

There was a discussion about the Fire Department soliciting in churches for donations for a children's fire safety program. Ms. Shinholster stated that there should be funds available for them to get the coloring books they were soliciting for. There was a discussion about this being a fund raiser for the community and the fire department had done this for many years.

There was a discussion about increasing salaries of the municipal court appointed positions of judge, solicitor and indigent solicitor. Mr. Jarrett handed out a request and information on the municipal court appointed officials. There was a discussion about the municipal court revenues and increasing the salaries of each of the three positions by \$250 per month.

There was a discussion about increasing employees' salaries or giving bonuses. A \$500.00 bonus would be about equivalent to a 1.5% one-time raise and is what was done last year.

There was a discussion about the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax negotiations with the County, including issuing a bond to pay off the mega site or waiting until the funds came in to pay off the loan. There was also discussion about how the SPLOST revenue should be split based on the upcoming census figures as opposed to the decade old one.

Mr. Jarrett stated that they had a very successful meeting with the County regarding the Service Delivery Strategy negotiations.

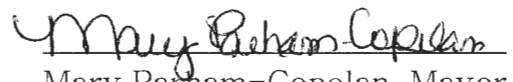
There was a discussion about an increase in the health insurance fees.

The discussion turned back to a potential ad valorem tax increase and determining the amount of an increase later in the year.

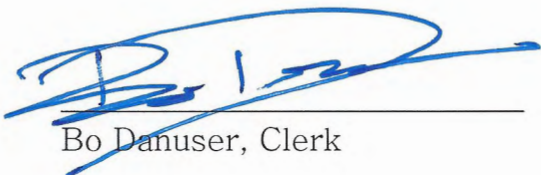
Mr. Jarrett stated that he was going to pull the ordinance adopting the budget at the May 22nd meeting and move it to the June 12th meeting.

Motion Mr. Reynolds, second Mrs. Walden to adjourn.

The meeting was at 7:45 without objection.


Mary Parham-Copelan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Bo Danuser, Clerk