



City of Roswell

38 Hill Street
Roswell, Georgia 30075

Meeting Minutes Mayor and City Council Special Called

Mayor Jere Wood
Council Member Nancy Diamond
Council Member Rich Dippolito
Council Member Kent Igleheart
Council Member Jerry Orlans
Council Member Betty Price
Council Member Becky Wynn

Monday, May 20, 2013

6:30 PM

City Hall - Council Chambers

WELCOME

Present: 4 - Council Member Kent Igleheart, Council Member Jerry Orlans, Council Member Betty Price, and Council Member Becky Wynn

Absent: 3 - Mayor Jere Wood, Council Member Rich Dippolito, and Council Member Nancy Diamond

Mayor Pro Tem Price presiding.

Staff Present: City Administrator Kay Love; City Attorney David Davidson; Finance Director Keith Lee; Budget Manager Ryan Luckett; Budget Coordinator Denise Brown; Budget Analyst Lynn Williams; Recreation, Parks, Historic and Cultural Affairs Assistant Director Morgan Rodgers; Community Relations Manager Julie Brechbill; Community Relations Digital Media Designer Joel Vazquez; Building Operations Technician Tim Thompson; Deputy City Clerk Betsy Branch.

REGULAR AGENDA

Mayor's Report

1. **Public hearing on the Millage rate of 5.455 for the FY 2014 Budget.**

Mayor Pro Tem Price introduced this item stating this is the second public hearing of the Millage Rate for the FY 2014 Budget. She explained that the millage rate was read at the first reading and will be read again at the second reading. Tonight is merely at public hearing regarding the millage rate.

Budget Manager Ryan Luckett presented this item. Mr. Luckett stated this is the City's second Millage Rate Hearing for the FY 2014 Budget. He made a brief presentation to provide overall information regarding the City's Millage Rate for the FY 2014 Proposed Budget.

Mr. Luckett stated the City's Property Tax amount is based on an estimated digest. The City's digest assumes a 15% decline in the motor vehicle digest value. The proposed FY 2014 Budget includes a shift of a portion of the Debt Service Millage

Rate (.405 mills) to Maintenance and Operating (M&O) to help fully fund Maintenance Capital and other increasing costs.

This shift in Millage Rate has no impact on the property tax bill. Mr. Luckett displayed a chart of current and proposed figures, based on an average home in the City of Roswell with an average value of \$250,000. Based on the average home value in Roswell of \$250,000, the proposed chart shows a shift of \$40.50 from the Debt Service portion to the M&O portion, for a net zero impact.

Mr. Luckett displayed history of the Total Millage Rate for the City of Roswell. He explained that over the last ten years, Roswell's total property tax rate has either been reduced or maintained. He stated that with this shift of .405 mills to the City's M&O rate, the new M&O rate would be 4.464 mills. This would still leave the City of Roswell as having the lowest M&O rate among all North Fulton cities.

Mr. Luckett stated the next and final meeting regarding the FY 14 Millage Rate will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. This hearing will include the second and final FY 2014 Proposed Budget reading, as well as the final FY 2014 Millage Rate hearing. Mr. Luckett offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Price called for Council comments or questions. No Council comments or questions were made. Mayor Pro Tem Price clarified that public speakers would each have a five minute speaking limit.

Public comments:

Lee Fleck, Martins Landing, stated he believed there were statements made last week during the budget hearing that "were not properly qualified, and since Mayor Wood made statements in the media that the millage rate has remained constant over the last several years, I believe that such a legacy statement needs qualifications so that it is absolutely clear where we have come from and how that leads up to the proposed millage rate we are considering this evening." Mr. Fleck read from the Consolidated Annual Financial Report dated June 30, 2009 stating, "At the end of the current financial year unreserved fund balance of the General Fund was \$35,244,000."

Mr. Fleck referring to this year's budget document said, "The reality is that there was \$7.5 million this time last year in the General Fund. This year, there is only \$165,000 which is peanuts and not even worth talking about."

Mr. Fleck, referring to a graph, said it represented the reality of the last four years. He stated, "This Council and Administration has burned off \$35 million worth of excess reserves in the General Fund, as I predicted in 2009. This is not a conservative approach to budgeting, as the Mayor has stated publicly." Mr. Fleck stated this has not been Mayor Wood's doing alone. This has been a result of the members of Roswell City Council "who as the governing body over the last five years have authorized burning through \$35 million in excess reserves, thus eating away at the financial foundation of the City of Roswell at an unprecedented and unfavorable pace, and there is more to come." Mr. Fleck stated the City budget document shows the millage rate will go up again in two years. He said, "That means that with this millage rate increase and the one in 2016, you are talking about \$100 per \$100,000 of assessed value." Mr. Fleck said he is gravely concerned about evaporation of One-Time Capital. He said, "The bottom line is it doesn't really matter what has happened in the last ten years or what has happened with regard to millage rate that you keep quoting, or reserves, as I keep quoting." He asked what the City is going to do to generate \$9 million dollars, which is "the average burn rate that you have experienced in the last five years." No further comments.

No other public comments or questions were made.

The third Millage Rate Hearing (Final) for FY 2014 is scheduled for the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

No vote required.

Enactment No: ORD2013-05-04

Adjournment - After no further business, the Mayor and Council Special Called meeting of Monday, May 20, 2013 adjourned at 6:41 p.m.