



PUBLIC HEARING

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Kenerly opened the Public Hearing at 5:38 p.m.

Roll Call

Mayor Theresa Kenerly – Present Councilmember Jim Cleveland – Present Councilmember Mindi Kiewert – Present, arrived at 5:42 p.m. Councilmember Susan Powers – Absent Councilmember Hope Weeks – Present
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Also present:

April Plank, City Administrator
Rachel Bemby, Financial Consultant, JAT Consulting
Media was present

OPENING PRAYER: Mayor Kenerly led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Cleveland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Public Hearing for 2018 Budget Amendment:** To amend the 2018 General Fund Budget; 2018 SPLOST Budget and 2018 Water/Sewer Fund Budget.

The City's financial consultant, Rachel Bemby of JAT Consulting, gave a presentation on the 2018 amended budget. She provided the summary of budgeted funds, and went through each fund individually and where the larger increases/decreases were and how the activity was aligned in each fund; mostly getting things in the right place. All revenue funds were examined, and changes were made to permanent revenue and cemetery fees, as well as decreases insurance premium taxes and fall festival. Ms. Bemby also informed Council that the percentage of the overall GF in personnel services and employee benefits is 22 percent for 2018, which is much lower than the average of around 35 percent.

Councilmember Cleveland stated the City runs on minimal manpower, but adding another employee to public works this year has helped tremendously, and how much money it has saved the City on certain projects like locating all the valves by employees doing the locating versus hiring it out to be done.

Councilmember Weeks inquired about moving the revenue of refuse collection charges; Ms. Bemby stated she would examine that revenue stream and will verify before next meeting. Councilmember Weeks also inquired about the fall festival account and insurance premium tax. She also stated her familiarity of the Watershed expense with the City of Jefferson.

Discussion regarding the USDA grant refund took place.

Councilmember Weeks talked about her findings when she analyzed professional fees, as asked for by citizens. After her thorough evaluation, the costs associated with the number of projects the City has, and the number of different engineers needed for these projects, is very fair. She also mentioned the cost of her employer's engineering services which far surpasses the City's at this point.


CITIZEN INPUT

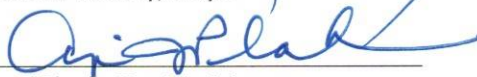
Erma Denney, 79 Hunters Way, Hoschton: Ms. Denney questioned the change in trash service from the water fund to the general fund, and verified whether or not it has to be spent on that side (water fund), and if it's placed in the general fund it can be moved. She asked that any profit from trash service be spent in the much-needed water and sewer fund. Ms. Denney also asked about the decline in water and sewer tap fees. Rachel Bemby stated it's not a decline as it is just being pushed forward because neighborhoods weren't building as quickly as they anticipated; and inquired about the \$300,000 depreciation. Ms. Bemby stated it was probably an oversight in previous budgets, which is a common occurrence. Ms. Denney asked about the personnel adjustment and Councilmember Cleveland and City Administrator, April Plank, answered her questions regarding personnel, new hires, adjustments, etc.; Ms. Bemby stated she is working on the 2019 budget and it's in process. Mayor Kenerly stated she foresaw it being completed in January.

Richard Green, 122 Pheasant Run, Hoschton: Mr. Green discussed the Badger meters, and how the City used to spend a lot of time reading meters, but now with the new meters, that amount of time is significantly less.

Jon Vogt, Hoschton resident: Mr. Vogt asked Ms. Bemby inquired on the expenditures and the capitalization on those expenditures.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Councilmember Cleveland made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilmember Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Kenerly closed the Public Hearing at 6:41 p.m.


Theresa Kenerly, Mayor


April Plank, City Administrator



1-9-19
Date

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- DECEMBER
17th – Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, 79 City Square, 6:15 p.m. – CANCELLED DUE TO NO AGENDA ITEMS
17th – Called City Council Meeting, 4272 Hwy 53, 5:30 p.m. to vote for the 2018 Budget Amendment
24th – City Hall CLOSED
25th – City Hall CLOSED
26th – City Hall CLOSED
- JANUARY
1st – City Hall CLOSED
3rd – City Council Work Session, 4272 Hwy 53 Train Depot, 5:30 p.m.
7th – City Council Regular Meeting, 4272 Hwy 53 Train Depot, 5:30 p.m.

Manner of Addressing Council - No Council member, while the City Council is in session, shall speak on any subject unless recognized by the presiding officer. Every speaker shall address the Chair/Mayor, and no member shall interrupt anyone who is speaking except to call him to order or for explanation. **Limitations on Addressing City Council** - Any person not a member of City Council who desires to address the City Council shall first sign in at the beginning of the work session giving his or her address and the subject they wish to speak about. Permission to speak is at the discretion of the Mayor and City Council. Three (3) minutes will be allowed for each person chosen to speak. Grievances with individual employees may not be discussed. If you are selected to speak, you will be called upon by the presiding officer, and then shall come to the podium, state your name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record, and direct his/her remarks to the City Council as a body rather than to any particular member, limiting such remarks to no more than three (3) minutes.