

City of Jasper
200 Burnt Mountain Road
Jasper, Georgia 30143

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, September 30, 2019, 6:00 PM

- I. Call meeting to order
- II. Invocation
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Adopt agenda
- V. Discussion of millage rate
 - A. Brandon Douglas
- VI. Public comments
- VII. Adjourn

**CITY OF JASPER
MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, September 30, 2019, 6 PM**

Members Present:

Mayor John Weaver
John Foust
Tony Fountain
Anne Sneve
Sonny Proctor
Kirk Raffield

Staff:

Lisa Hoyle
Brandon Douglas

Guests in Attendance:

Steve Lawrence
Jim Looney

Members Absent:

None

Legal Counsel:

Bill Pickett

Press:

Dan Pool

Mayor Weaver called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 p.m. He requested Jim Looney give the invocation. Councilmember John Foust led in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Weaver asked that the agenda be reviewed and approved. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Kirk Raffield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Weaver recognized City Manager Brandon Douglas. Mr. Douglas stated that this is the first of three required public hearings. He stated that if the city does not advertise the recommended roll back millage rate that the State requires three public hearings. He stated that the next public hearing will be October 7 at 9:00 am and the third public hearing will be October 7 at 5:30 pm. He stated that the current millage rate is 4.655 and that it was his recommendation to maintain this rate. He stated following the third public hearing that council could adopt the millage rate at the October 7 regular meeting. He presented council with some sample properties from the tax digest to compare tax differences. He stated that if the county assessed value did not increase, then there would be no tax increase on that property. He stated that the city was not raising taxes across the board, but if a property's assessed value went up, more taxes will be due. Mayor Weaver asked Mr. Douglas to explain to the public why he felt the City should not roll back the millage rate as recommended by the State. Mr. Douglas stated that due to the State changing the TAVT for auto sales, the City went from receiving approximately \$24,000 to \$30,000 a month to receiving approximately \$5,000 per month. He stated that this was a significant impact to the City's 2020 budget. He stated that by not rolling back the millage, the additional tax would help offset this reduction in funds. Mayor Weaver asked if the City had annexed any property this year. Mayor Weaver stated that he was able to increase tax revenue throughout his years in office through expanding the city through annexations which increased the tax digest tremendously. He stated in the future, annexation might be the City's salvation as to not raise taxes.

Mayor Weaver opened the floor to comments and questions regarding the proposed 2019 millage rate. There were no public comments.

Councilmember Kirk Raffield made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Weaver adjourned the hearing.

Council is scheduled to convene next at the public hearings and regular meeting on November 7, 2019.


John W. Weaver
Mayor


Lisa J. Hoyle
City Clerk/Finance Director