

MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED  
COUNCIL MEETING  
IN-PERSON & ZOOM  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020

Members Present:

Mayor Steve Lawrence  
Dr. Sonny Proctor  
Kirk Raffield-zoom  
Anne Sneve  
Jim Looney  
John Foust

Staff:

Brandon Douglas  
Beverly Ragland  
Lindsey Williams  
Tara Benson

Guests in Attendance:

Jasper City Hall Lobby - zoom

Members Absent:

Legal Counsel:

Press:

Mari Livsey-Know Pickens

Mayor Steve Lawrence asked Councilmember Anne Sneve if she recognized a quorum. See a quorum, Mayor Lawrence recognized meeting as opening. He requested City Manager Brandon Douglas to provide the invocation. He requested Councilmember Jim Looney to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lawrence advised that an agenda is in front of them and he entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Jim Foust made a motion to adopt the agenda with Councilmember Sneve providing a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the only item under old business (Item A) Final consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2020-23 for the adoption of the 2020 ad valorem tax rate (millage rate) for the City of Jasper at 5.655 mills. Mayor Lawrence asked Finance Director Beverly Ragland to bring forth information at which time she reiterated the process that has occurred to get to this point. Budget requests were solicited from the departments in August to assemble the preliminary budget request for 2021. The tax digest was then received from Pickens County. When those figures were put together with the requested budget, it was determined that a 6.78 millage rate would be needed to balance the general fund budget. Tax advertisements as prescribed in O.C.G.A. 48-5-32 were published and 3 public hearings were held. Staff was able to identify 5-6% in expense reductions in the weeks that followed the initial request. In the third and final public hearing held on October 5, 2020, staff recommended a 5.655 millage rate for the 2020 ad valorem property taxes. During the regular council meeting held on October 5, 2020 a motion was made and a second received for the first reading of Ordinance 2020-23 for the adoption of the 2020 ad valorem tax rate (millage rate) for the City of Jasper at 5.655 mills and was passed unanimously by council. Tonight's reading is the second and final consideration of Ordinance 2020-23 to adopt the 2020 ad valorem tax rate (millage rate) for the City of Jasper at 5.655 mills.

Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion for approval with Councilmember Jim Foust making a motion for approval and Councilmember Looney providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to adjourn with Councilmember Sneve providing a motion and Councilmember Foust providing a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.



Steve Lawrence  
Mayor



Beverly Ragland  
Finance Director/City Clerk