



BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Monday, August 29, 2022

Mayor Langford led the Invocation and the Pledge and called the meeting to order.

Mayor: Daniel Langford

Council Member present Kay Brumbelow
Brian Davis
Scott Israel
Todd Speer

Absent: Ted Britt

M. Ungaro requested an addition be made to the Agenda; Other Business - Council Member Scott Israel motioned to approve the modifications made to the Agenda, and Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, all in favor.

Mayor Langford opened the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m. to hear public comments and to discuss the previously proposed 1.64 millage rate; after Monday, August 22nd, 2022, and Wednesday, August 24, 2022, meetings, Mayor and Council looked at the budget and made some adjustments, principally to revenue items. The millage rate is now proposed at 1.207, which is about a 34.71% increase. That is what is being considered this evening, a 1.207 millage rate.

Caroline Smith – 210 McIntosh Rd – While attending last Monday’s meeting, I questioned why the millage rate hike was; the reasons why I was given were, the Town had gone a number of years without an increase, and after research, there was a large increase last year. After verifying with the Town Clerk, the population for the Town of Brooks is 568; the second reason was to increase the salaries of the Staff and not the Mayor and Council Members. I received the salaries via an Open Records request, and most of them seem fairly in line; there is one item that is of concern, the Town Manager’s salary. With the Town size of 568, I feel it is a very high salary for the population size. What is the proposed budget for this year?

Mayor Langford agreed there was a large millage increase in 2021. In response to the salaries not in total, but the other costs, including payroll taxes, and benefits, based on my computation, are 43% of the total budget. Sharpsburg’s salaries are 42% of their budget, with their budget being half of ours; their millage rate is 2.2 mills vs. ours proposed at 1.207. In other cities, Fayetteville, their payroll is 36%, and Peachtree City is 75% of their budget and does not believe the Town Manager’s salary is an exorbitant salary. If the millage rate passes this evening, the budget will be amended to reflect \$507,961 in revenues and expenses.

Aaron Edge - 113 W. McIntosh – You said where most of the budget money comes from, retail, sales tax, and how does the Town receive its portion.

M. Ungaro replied that Fayette County collects all of the revenue and then appropriates it to municipalities; each town pays an administrative fee for this service.

Mayor Langford stated that the LOST percentage was recently renegotiated and is done every ten years. Woolsey does not get a share of the LOST revenue. LOST is the largest piece of the revenue budget; last year was almost \$153k, the second largest was the \$104K ARPA money, the third largest item is the Insurance Premium and the Franchise Tax fees, the property tax that this millage is subject to, last year it was budget was \$40,251, this year the budget for estimate property tax revenue is \$56,250 based on a 1.207 millage rate, 34.71% increase, a little more than 10% increase.

Brian Diner – 269 Woods Rd. – Would like to thank the Mayor and Council for all the OT that has been put in over the last couple of weeks.

Mayor Langford said that with no further questions or comments, he will now close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting; at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Langford asked if there was a Motion regarding the revised proposed millage rate of 1.207.

Council Member Todd Speer Motioned to adopt the millage rate of 1.207 as discussed, and Council member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, all in favor. The millage rate is now 1.207.

Other Business:

Nikki Vanderslice introduced herself and stated she is on the Fayette County Business Development Authority. She shared that the Fayette County Business Authority has recently had successes with the sale of the property on Hwy 54 and Veteran's Pkwy that has been worked on for a long time. FCBA started about six years ago and, in the beginning, came to each municipality within Fayette County; the Town of Brooks signed up to fund the FCBA. The deal we've been working on was closed on June 30, 2022, the last day of our fiscal year. Our Board voted to write checks back to the municipalities and County for the funding of the project. I am pleased to present a check to Mayor Langford in the amount of \$4,454.00. Thank you again, and I'm pleased to report that the FCBA will not be back next year to ask for funding as we have met our goal of being self-sufficient.

Adjourn: There being no further business to discuss this evening, Council Member Brian Davis offered a Motion to adjourn; Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorey Spohr
Town Clerk