

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Final

Thursday, July 1, 2021

11:00 AM

Special Called Meeting

City Hall Auditorium

110 Academy Street

City Council

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grant.

Members Present:

*Mayor Bill Grant
Mayor Pro Tempore JoEllen Wilson
Councilmember Shawn Tolan
Councilmember Nick Estes
Councilmember Brooke Schmidt
Councilmember Sandy McGrew
Councilmember Will Carlan
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager
Ms. Melissa Forrester, Finance Director
Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk
Mr. Mike Morgan, Information Technology Director*

Absent:

None

2. Public Hearings

City Manager Billy Peppers provided a presentation discussing the City's historical property tax rates, rate comparisons of municipalities throughout Cherokee County, the method for calculating property taxes, revenues generated by property taxes, the return or value for residents from taxes paid to the City, and an overview of the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget. Highlights of the budget include new personnel, cost of services increases, operational upgrades, and continued projects within the City. Mr. Peppers discussed the capital fast lane approach for financing and completing Canton's Roadmap for Success. Mr. Peppers provided Council available funding streams for capital projects and new programs. Mr. Peppers discussed projects to be completed under each of Canton's Roadmap tenets and their funding sources. A copy of the full presentation can be found in the agenda packet in the City Clerk's office.

A. Public Hearing of 2021 Millage Rate - City Manager Billy Peppers - Attachment 2A

Attachments: [Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget and Millage Rate](#)

Mayor Grant opened the public hearing for the 2021 millage rate. There being no one signed up to speak in support of or in opposition to the millage rate, Mayor Grant closed the public hearing and opened the discussion for Councilmembers. Mayor Pro Tempore Wilson asked how bonds are a source of revenue. Mr. Peppers explained that the City receipted funds from the sale of bonds to complete the wastewater treatment plant expansion. Councilmember McGrew asked about roadwork that was completed last year. Mr. Peppers discussed Local Maintenance Infrastructure Grant (LMIG) funds that are received by the City each year. These funds are given for each mile of roadway that the City maintains. The City is required to provide a 30% match to the LMIG funding and do so out of SPLOST funding. In 2020, the City completed 6.2 miles of paving using the \$318,000 received from LMIG. In addition, the City completed 6.3 miles of paving utilizing the SPLOST match funding. This is a total of 12.84

miles. Historically the City strives to complete between eight (8) and ten (10) miles per year. In 2021, the LMIG project will be five (5) miles of paving which will be done later in the fall. Total LMIG funds received in 2021 were \$282,000. Mr. Peppers discussed how paving projects are selected and the new development policy related to paving. Councilmember McGrew asked about sidewalks in the Riverstone development. Mr. Peppers stated the details for the sidewalks will be brought by the transportation study, approval from Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the establishment of a tax district to offset the funds for installation.

B. Public Hearing of Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget - City Manager Billy Peppers - Attachment 2B

Attachments: [Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget and Millage Rate](#)

Mayor Grant opened the public hearing for the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget. There being no one signed up to speak in support of or in opposition to the millage rate, Mayor Grant closed the public hearing and opened the discussion for Councilmembers. Councilmember McGrew asked about the improvements along Highway 140. Mr. Peppers discussed two improvement projects being done along Highway 140. The first project is at the intersection of Highway 140, Marietta Highway, and Riverstone Parkway. Mr. Peppers discussed the approval process through GDOT and Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) as well as funding for the project. ARC has approved funding for engineering. Funds are allocated over a three (3) year process for design. The reason for the lengthy process is partially due to environmental studies which must be completed to use federal funds. Construction funds for this project have not currently been approved by ARC. City staff have become Local Administered Project (LAP) certified which allows the City to manage these projects in-house. The City must acquire right-of-way property to complete the realignment of this intersection. Doing this will help move the project forward for further approvals and funding. The second project is at the intersection of Highway 140 and Reinhardt College Parkway. ARC has given approval for engineering, utility relocation, and construction costs. Funding for the engineering portion of the project will be given to the City next summer. Construction will take around one (1) to two (2) years for completion once the project reaches the construction phase.

Mayor Grant noted the capital projects and proposed new programs in the budget are primarily funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds which have specific spending criteria and time requirements. Mayor Grant stated the other funds listed are funds the City has always used for these types of projects and programs. Mayor Grant stated if funds do not become available then Council can adjust the budget accordingly. Mr. Peppers noted all funds associated with the Tax Allocation District (TAD) will be tied to a development agreement and redevelopment plan that must be adopted by Council. Mr. Peppers also stated the City has created a new fund source in the budget for the ARPA funds so that these can be clearly shown as they come in and what they are being used for. Councilmember Schmidt asked Mr. Peppers to create a slide giving a couple of details explaining of each of the funding sources. Mayor Grant and Mr. Peppers discussed the importance of transparency within the budget and the budget process being a team effort. Councilmember Tolan asked how taxes could increase even though the millage rate is staying the same. Mr. Peppers explained the millage rate is a decimal or percentage that is set by the City. Cherokee County Tax Assessor's Office sets the value of each property within the City limits. If a resident's tax bill increases, this is because their

property value went up. If a resident's property value decreases, their property tax bill should also decrease. The City provides a map on the website which shows changes in tax value. There is a process to challenge or appeal the assessment of your property which can be done through Cherokee County Tax Assessor's Office. Mr. Peppers stated the second public hearing on the millage rate and proposed budget will be held tonight at 6:00 pm. The third and final public hearing will be on Thursday, July 15th at 6:00 pm. If anyone would like to submit comments on either item, they may do so by emailing the City.

3. Adjourn

Councilmember Estes made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tempore seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Bill Grant, Mayor

Attest:

Annie Fortner, City Clerk

Dates Minutes Approved by Council