



**Cleveland City Council
Called Meeting Minutes**
Thursday, July 20, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.
Cleveland Community Center/Police Department
342 Campbell Street, Cleveland, GA

1. Call to Order

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor Josh Turner, Council Members Nan Bowen, Rebecca Yardley (Mayor Pro Tem), Jeremy McClure, and C.J. McDonald

Also present were City Administrator Kevin Harris, City Attorney Keith Whitaker, and City Clerk Lisa Ritchie

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approve Agenda**

Motion by Council Member Yardley, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. 2023 Millage Rate and Digest

Mayor Turner stated the purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from the public to help the Mayor and Council determine the millage rate for the city for the 2023-2024 budget year. He stated the following:

- Following assessments from the Board of Assessors, municipalities and counties are required to have hearings unless the jurisdiction automatically approves the full rollback.
- A notice of property tax increase is required due to a possible increase because even a drop in the millage rate without taking the full rollback will still increase property taxes because of the growth of the net tax digest over the past 12 months.

- City staff initiated the process by advertising the intent to retain the current millage rate of 5.056 to allow the Council to consider the following options:
 - Retaining the current rate
 - Approving a partial rollback
 - Approving a full rollback
- With an advertised rate of 5.056, the Council will take no action that would result in a higher millage rate than the rate as advertised in the county's legal organ.
- Retaining the millage rate will result in an increase of .456 mills over the rollback rate.
- The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$150,000 will be approximately \$17.10 and for a home with a fair market value of \$250,000 it will be approximately \$28.50.
- Notice has been posted as required by state law at City Hall and submitted to local media outlets including the county's legal organ as well as the city's website.

Mr. Harris presented the proposed options for the 2023 millage rate. He discussed the following:

- Real property tax
- Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Collections
- General Fund department expenditures
- Georgia Department of Revenue information regarding the decrease to tax revenues
- The 2023 Tax Digest and 5 Year History of Levy
- Existing needs of the city

Mayor Turner gave the Public Hearing instructions.

Tedi Boling, 575 Campbell Street, addressed the Mayor and Council Members stating that she is in favor of a partial rollback.

Mayor Turner stated his support for a full rollback.

Mayor Turner closed the Public Hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. Resolution - 2023-24 - Amendment to Board Appointments Resolution 2023-21 - Alcohol Review Board Appointments (1 of 3 Haley Thomas and Charles Massingale were appointed on Resolution 2023-21 at the Mayor and Council Meeting on July 10, 2023) and 1 alternate

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the appointment of Jesse Harkins to serve as the third Alcohol Review Board Appointment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member Yardley, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to enter an Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

6. Discussion regarding personnel, pending litigation, and real estate

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the City Council Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Council Member McDonald opened the door to allow citizens to return to the regular meeting. No one was waiting to return to the meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion by Council Member Yardley, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the City Council Meeting of July 20, 2023 at 7:41 p.m.

Josh Turner

Mayor



Jeremy McClure

Council Member
Ward 3



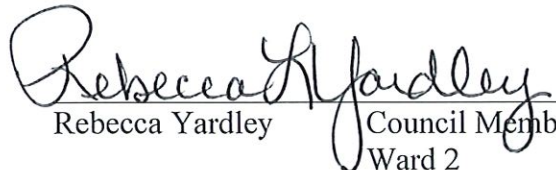
Nan Bowen

Council Member
Ward 1



C.J. McDonald

Council Member
Ward 4



Rebecca Yardley

Council Member
Ward 2
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Lisa A. Ritchie

City Clerk