



**Cleveland City Council
Called Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 28, 2023 – 6:45 P.M.
Cleveland Community Center/Police Department
342 Campbell Street, Cleveland, GA**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 6:45 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.

2023 MILLAGE RATE AND DIGEST

Mayor Turner stated that he is in opposition to an increase in property taxes and the council's position not to take a full roll-back. Mayor Turner stated the following reasons he is not in agreement to retain the current millage rate:

- 1) Citizens are paying more for basic goods and services, and transportation when the country is facing inflation and high interest rates.
- 2) The City Council has adopted a balanced budget without a need for a tax increase.
- 3) An additional estimated \$72,000 in tax revenue is not going to make a significant impact in increasing operations and services provided by the city.

4. Adoption

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Yardley, and voted, unanimously, to approve retaining the millage rate of 5.056.

Council Member McDonald stated that his concerns are that the current general fund would carry the city approximately 27 days and the general rule is to have a 3 to 6 months operating budget available at all times.

Council Member Bowen stated their support for retaining the millage rate.

Council Member McClure stated added that there are too many unforeseen expenses.

Council Member Yardley stated that she struggled with the decision. She said they have a vision for the future and to take care of the citizens the financial standings have to be taken care of.

Mayor Turner stated that it is a bad time to raise taxes on citizens.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald and voted, unanimously, to enter an Executive Session at 6:53 p.m.

5. Discussion regarding personnel, and real estate

Motion by Council Member Yardley, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the City Council Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Council Member McDonald opened the door to allow citizens to return to the regular meeting. Samantha Sinclair returned to the meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion by Council Member Yardley, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the City Council Called Meeting of July 28, 2023, at 7:25 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 L. Yardley
Rebecca Yardley Council Member
Ward 2
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Lisa A. Ritchie

City Clerk