

Minutes
CITY OF FOLKSTON
WORK SESSION
September 13, 2021

The Mayor and Council of the City of Folkston met in a work session on September 13, 2021 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

Members Present: Lee Gowen, Mayor
Ruby Baker
Marion Davis Jr.
Jim Gowen
Rob Roberson
Bruce Young

Members Absent:

Also Present: Leonard H. Lloyd, City Manager
Darlene Williamson, City Clerk
Hali Coffey, Deputy Clerk
Patrick Brooks, City Attorney

Visitors: Elaine Bailey, Janice Conner, Don Crews, Audrey Pickren, Gloria Brown, Erika Woolard, Pastor Terrance Pender, Dana O'Quinn, Okefenokee Chamber; Natalee Newvine, Brandie Murrell, Kimberly Mitchell, Katy Ruth Huling, Brooke Taylor and Tina Lynch.

2020 AUDIT:

The city auditor, Don Crews presented the financial statements for the Fiscal Year December 31, 2020. Mr. Crews informed the council that at the end of the year, the city was able to report a positive balance in all categories of net position.

DANA O'QUINN / OKEFENOKEE CHAMBER:

Mrs. Dana O'Quinn stated she met with Mayor, Lee Gowen and City Manager, Pender Lloyd to discuss the Okefenokee festival events. Mr. Lloyd informed Mrs. O'Quinn that the city would be able to furnish the public safety and trash service for both Saturday and Sunday of the festival. The parade was discussed and a decision was made to include the parade. Mrs. O'Quinn introduced Brandy Murrell, Brooke Taylor and Natalie Newvine as the chair members for the parade committee. The parade committee will meet to coordinate the details for the parade and report back to the council at the regular meeting, September 20, 2021.

Mrs. O'Quinn stated the Champ Bailey Family Fun Day will be held on September 25, 2021 at the Depot Grounds. The event will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The event is hosted by Peach State Health Plan, there will be Food and games during the event. Free COVID-19 testing, blood pressure and glucose checks will be offered. The event is to educate and promote COVID vaccination.

JANICE CONNER:

Mrs. Janice Conner approached the council with information concerning her request for a zoning variance in 2018 to move a travel trailer onto her property for her brother to live in for a specific time period. The property is located on Martin Street across from the proposed RV spaces. She stated that the variance was allowed, but she was required to install a fence to hide the RV from the street view.

She then questioned about other RV's located on Third Street behind E Z Money Pawn and Jalen's Barb-B-que and why they are not required to have a fence around them. Mayor Gowen stated the two RVs in question did not get permission to be put on this property and the city will make contact with the owner. Mayor Gowen commended Mrs. Conner for making her request the right way and following the zoning ordinance.

Mrs. Conner then requested information concerning the RV spaces being installed at the corner of Funnel Street and Martin Street and asked if they had been granted a zoning variance and would the property be required to have a fence. Mayor Gowen stated the owner did not have to request a zoning variance because it is going to be a business and is located in the business district, the property is not required to have a fence. Mrs. Conner expressed her concern with the traffic on Martin Street and the safety of children that might be in the RV area.

2022 BUDGET

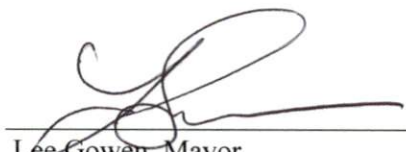
Mr. Lloyd presented a copy of the proposed 2022 budget. The water and sewer budget were adjusted to account for the shortage of income needed to balance the budget. The general budget includes two additional police officers and two public works employees. The millage rate needed for the general budget is 8.114 mills, an increase of .713 mills which will generate an additional \$52,228.00. Three public hearings are required for an increase to the millage rate. One public hearing is required for the 2022 budget adoption. The public hearings will be scheduled and sent to the newspaper.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Gloria Brown asked if there are any grants available for youth activities for the community. Mayor Gowen stated he was not aware of any at this time.

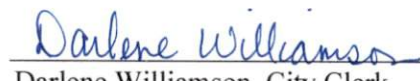
Pastor Terrance Pender requested to be placed on the agenda for the September 20, regular meeting to present information concerning the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

The work session ended at 6:02 pm.



Lee Gowen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Darlene Williamson, City Clerk

City of Folkston

Work Session

September 13, 2021

Please Print

Sign In

Elaine Bailey

Janie Conner

JAMISON GUICE

Don Cr

Carolee Fickens

Shari A. Brown

Erica W. W. W. W.

Kevin R. R.

Deana D. D.

Natalie Verrie

Brandie Mummell

Kimberly Mitchell

Katy Ruth Haux

Brooke Taylor

Tina Lynch

APPROVE INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENTS

The July 2018 income and expense statements were presented to the council to review for approval at the September 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting.

Mr. Golaszewski made a motion to approve the May and June 2018 income and expense statements as presented. Mrs. Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

PD REPORT

Chief Green informed the council that the police department filed 46 incident reports, investigated 11 accidents and answered 1181 calls during the month of July 2018. The police department collected \$10,878.00; the city's portion is \$7,230.76 of the fines and forfeitures collected.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Lloyd stated the city has received 39,179.50 from FEMA for Hurricane Irma and an additional \$2,206.90 is expected for administrative costs.

The city received a notice from GMA that there will not be an increase in health insurance for 2019.

Mr. Lloyd informed the council the water tower on Hwy 252 is not working and will be down for one to two weeks. The cost of the repairs will be approximately \$19,000.00, everything in the well will be replaced with new parts. The well at city hall is having problems with the pressure switch causing the tank to overflow. The problem is still ongoing at this point, but hope to have it fixed soon.

Drainage improvements will begin after the project to move the water lines on Dallas Circle is completed.

JANICE CONNER /ZONING VARIANCE REQUEST

Mayor Gowen stated Janice Conner is requesting a zoning variance to allow a travel trailer to be placed on her property located on Martin Street behind Flash Foods and McDonalds. Her brother is ill and needs a place to live.

Mrs. Baker made a motion to approve the zoning variance to allow a travel trailer to be placed on Martin Street for the sole person to live and it is to be removed after he is no longer living on the property. Mr. Golaszewski seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

placing the driver under arrest, he tried to discard narcotics in the vehicle. Upon further investigation, more narcotics, drug related objects and a firearm were found in the vehicle. All subjects were placed under arrest and transported to the jail where they were interviewed. Warrants will be secured in this matter. The vehicle was towed by Yahweh Towing, due to valuables in the vehicle and the vehicle could not be secured. Roy Elbert Altman was charged with

no evidence of how the window was busted out. This case is under investigation. The vehicle was a 2003 Chrysler Voyager van, blue in color.

On August 10, Officer Chris Carter made contact with a victim in Folkston. The victim advised that on the above date, someone struck the passenger side of his black in color Infiniti G37X, causing damage. The officer observed that the vehicle had damage to the passenger side door and pas-

Mr. Alvin Lee Edwards has in his possession approximately 15 bags of powder cocaine and about \$300 worth of crack cocaine. A search warrant was obtained and signed by Judge Hugh Chancey. The search warrant was executed on August 14. The search yielded 14 bags of powder cocaine and ten pieces of crack cocaine. Both of the subjects were placed under arrest. Also found on Mr. Robert Edwards person was a metal crack pipe. They were

Council...

Continued from 1

last month the Folkston Police Department responded to 46 incidents, 11 accidents, answered 1,181 calls and collected \$10,878.00 including the City's portion of \$7,230.76.

The council was informed the water tank located on Highway 252 is down and repairs will cost around \$19,000.00. The cost will replace everything from the

ground up and should be completed within a week.

A zoning variance request from Janice Conner to move in a travel trailer onto property she owns located on Martin Street for her brother to live in was approved. The variance will be allowed as long as her brother is the only occupant and will have to be removed if there are any changes. It was also stated that a fence is to be installed around the property.

After discussion, a motion was made and ap-

proved to lower the speed limit on Main Street to 15 miles per hour (mph) from Okfehenokce Drive to the courthouse.

A request from the Veterans Day Committee to have a parade starting at the football field and ending at the Veterans Park located at the Courthouse Annex was approved.

Minutes from the July 16 regular meeting, minutes from the August 13 work session, income and expense statements were all approved.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Charlton County Board of Commissioners will be accepting applications for a **Jailor**. Applicants must possess high school diploma or equivalent; must have good communication skills, must be able to work swing shifts. Starting pay is \$9.95 per hour.

Applications may be obtained from the Charlton County Sheriff's office, 1548 Third Street, Folkston, GA 31537. Charlton County is an EOE and has adopted a non-discrimination policy regarding hiring of the handicapped. All new applicants are subject to random drug testing and are required to pass the E-Verify certification. All applications need to be returned to the Charlton County Sheriff's Office located at 1548 Third Street Folkston, GA 31537 by noon

PT-32.1 - Computation of MILLAGE RATE ROLLBACK AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES - 2021

COUNTY: **Charlton**TAXING JURISDICTION: **Folkston**

ENTER VALUES AND MILLAGE RATES FOR THE APPLICABLE TAX YEARS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED BOXES BELOW

DESCRIPTION	2020 DIGEST	REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING REAL PROP	OTHER CHANGES TO TAXABLE DIGEST	2021 DIGEST
REAL	62,242,416	(13,926)	628,495	62,856,985
PERSONAL	11,463,524		(367,386)	11,096,138
MOTOR VEHICLES	666,660		(12,480)	654,180
MOBILE HOMES	762,136		(57,148)	704,988
TIMBER -100%	0		12,693	12,693
HEAVY DUTY EQUIP	0		0	0
GROSS DIGEST	75,134,736	(13,926)	204,174	75,324,984
EXEMPTIONS	1,744,351		328,915	2,073,266
NET DIGEST	73,390,385	(13,926)	(124,741)	73,251,718
	(PYD)	(RVA)	(NAG)	(CYD)

2020 MILLAGE RATE: **7.334**2021 MILLAGE RATE: **8.114**

CALCULATION OF ROLLBACK RATE

DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA
2020 Net Digest	PYD	73,390,385	
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	(13,926)	
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	(124,741)	
2021 Net Digest	CYD	73,251,718	(PYD+RVA+NAG)
2020 Millage Rate	PYM	7.400	PYM
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	-0.001	(RVA/CYD) * PYM
Rollback Millage Rate for 2021	RR - ROLLBACK RATE	7.401	PYM - ME

CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

If the 2020 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds Rollback Millage Rate computed above, this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c) (2)

Rollback Millage Rate	7.401
2021 Millage Rate	8.114
Percentage Tax Increase	9.63%

CERTIFICATIONS

I hereby certify that the amount indicated above is an accurate accounting of the total net assessed value added by the reassessment of existing real property for the tax year for which this rollback millage rate is being computed.

Chairman, Board of Tax Assessors

Date

I hereby certify that the values shown above are an accurate representation of the digest values and exemption amounts for the applicable tax years.

Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner

Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct computation of the rollback millage rate in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1 for the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2021 and that the final millage rate set by the authority of this taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2021 is _____

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH BELOW THAT APPLIES TO THIS TAXING JURISDICTION

☐ If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2021 exceeds the rollback rate, I certify that the required advertisements, notices, and public hearings have been conducted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1 as evidenced by the attached copies of the published "five year history and current digest" advertisement and the "Notice of Intent to Increase Taxes" showing the times and places when and where the required public hearings were held, and a copy of the press release provided to the local media.

☐ If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2021 does not exceed the rollback rate, I certify that the required "five year history and current digest" advertisement has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 as evidenced by the attached copy of such advertised report.

Responsible Party

Title

Date

CITY OF FOLKSTON
ANTICIPATED BUDGET FOR 2022
GENERAL

ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS AND BEGINNING BALANCES

PROPERTY TAXES	594,362
ALL OTHER TAXES	664,550
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	358,000
T-SPLOST	65,000
SPLOST	200,000
LICENSES & PERMITS	37,500
FINES & FORFEITURES	160,000
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	308,540
OTHER REVENUE-NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	23,320
FEDERAL/STATE GRANTS	57,491
FUND BALANCE AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	215,000
TOTAL INCOME	2,683,763

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES AND ENDING BALANCES

SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT	397,554
PARKS AND BEAUTIFICATION	55,385
STREETS	513,750
GENERAL OPERATIONS	512,226
POLICE DEPARTMENT	953,504
ADMINISTRATION	251,344
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,683,763

WATER

ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

WATER REVENUES	717,800
WATER EXPENSES	717,800

WASTEWATER

ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

WASTEWATER REVENUES	621,500
WASTEWATER EXPENSES	621,500

A Copy of the entire budget is available at City Hall for review.