

A special meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard A. Bolin Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Keith Brady presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brady called the meeting to order and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing for the 2021 budget.

PRESENT

Mayor Keith Brady. Council members present: Ray DuBose; George Alexander; Dustin Koritko; Paul Guillaume, Rhodes Shell. Council member present by Zoom: Cynthia Jenkins. Present by Zoom: City Manager, Cleatus Phillips. Also present City Clerk, Della Hill, and Assistant City Manager, Hasco Craver: City Attorney, Brad Sears and Police Chief, Douglas “Buster” Meadows.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2021 BUDGET

Mayor Brady opened a public hearing on the 2021 Budget.

The Assistant City Manager presented highlights of some of the aspects of the 2021 Budget totaling \$27,857,000. Congratulations to City and Staff for the 31st Distinguished Budget Award. This is a 3 % increase from 2020. One of the biggest questions for 2021 is what will be the continued impacts of COVID-19?

This document achieves many goals set by the City, it offers excellent levels of service to our citizens, provides our employees with the motivation and resources to excel in their responsibilities, utilizes a diverse revenue stream, and maintains our low tax rate. There are no new full-time positions. The overall budget did increase, there is an 8% increase in Health Insurance along with a 24% increase in Retirement Contribution. The Retirement contribution may be an item of interest this body might consider in future planning and opportunities. There is a one-time mid-year pay (1.50% to 3.0%). Some major revenue changes for 2021 are transfer

from Tourism Fund, interest, residential permits, liquor license intergovernmental revenue and delinquent property taxes are less due to COVID-19. Major expenditure changes for 2021 is Health Insurance. The general government increased because all Health Insurance was moved into one department budget since we have gone to self-insured. Some expenditure changes for 2021; only 8 vehicles are budgeted and travel expenses have decreased. The budget increased by \$711,400 or 3% from the previous year. Wages and Benefits make up 51% of the expenditures. Benefit changes are Insurance and Retirement. Mayor Brady indicated he would like for us to look at other ways to deliver a better and rich retirement plan. Councilman DuBose would like for Staff to come up with other ways possible to take care of everyday health costs. This is the third year of SPLOST 2019. Some of the projects are C Jay Smith Park, Pickett Field, LINC and more. The Sanitation Fund has an 11% increase directly attributed to the volume of pick-up. We continue to receive the same revenue; however, we are picking up more. The financial status of this fund is a major concern. Staff would like to revisit this at a future meeting. No capital purchases for the second consecutive year. If we continue to see the volume increase in the future we may reach the need to purchase a new truck for another route. The Hotel-Motel Tax Fund reflects a 36% decrease due to COVID. The Newnan Centre and ENCI will both receive a transfer of \$185,500.

Seeing no one come forward Mayor Brady closed the public hearing at 6:19 pm.

Megan Shea, City Clerk

Keith Brady, Mayor