

Council Minutes
Work Shop
August 31, 2017
10:02 A.M.

The Council of the City of Gordon held a work shop on Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 10:02 a.m. at the Gordon City Hall located at 115 College Street. The purpose of the Work Shop was to discuss the mil rate and the budget. Present were Mayor Mary Ann Whipple-Lue and Council Members Mr. Bruce Daniel, Mr. Terry Eady, Mrs. Barbara Towles, Mrs. Doretha Whipple, and Mr. George Wynn. Councilman Densley did not attend. Also present were City Clerk Towana Brown, Chief Mike Hall, and Matt Garvin.

Invocation was given by Mayor Whipple-Lue.

Mayor opened Work Shop with discussion of the millage rate.

City Clerk reported that the current mil rate is 4.645. City Clerk presented copies of the 2016 tax figures reflecting the 5 year mil rate history with the mil rate set at 6 mils should the Council decide to raise the mil rate to 6 mils. She also presented a copy of each departments capital item requests along with the draft budgets for 2016-17 as prepared by Mr. Garvin. (Copy of all attached.)

The 2017 tax digest numbers have not been received. The shortfall in tax revenues from BASF were discussed along with balance of the Georgia Fund 1 account.

Mr. Garvin stated that he felt going up on taxes is almost a necessity and he needs the 2017 tax figures to see how much we need to raise the taxes to get the budget where it needs to be.

Loss revenues were discussed.

Mr. Garvin stated that the draft budget he has presented today is not a balanced budget. It is over budget by about \$400,000.00.

Changes to the budget will need to be made because there is only \$500,000.00 left in Georgia Fund 1 and to draw out \$400,000.00 to meet the budget would leave the city almost bankrupt.

The need to raise water and sewer rates was discussed.

Mr. Garvin stated that it would be hard to set the mil rate without the 2017 tax digest figures.

During Work Shop, Wilkinson County Tax Assessor Vanessa Lewis was contacted and she stated that she just received the 2017 numbers yesterday and the chief appraiser just sent them in to Harris yesterday and she is now waiting on the consolidation sheets to be sent to her and as soon as she gets those she can do the 5 year history and get those to us as soon as they are available. Harris has accepted them and is working on them and she hopes they will send them

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to her this week so that she can start working on the numbers next week. She will send the numbers to the city as soon as she can get them done, hopefully no later than the end of next week. She can't give a ballpark estimate at this time since she is still waiting on BASF and Carbo numbers to come through from the settlement. BASF will play a big factor in the digest.

The mil rate and tax exemptions were discussed at length. It was agreed to look at the digest and see what amount of mil rate increase is needed for the City to break even on the budget. It was the general agreement of the Council to raise the mil rate to have a balanced budget.

Council discussed dropping health insurance for mayor and council. This would save the city approximately \$60,000.00 per year.

Mr. Garvin stated there are no pay raises or bonuses in the three draft budgets. They do include the capital items.

Council agreed to wait and go over the draft budgets with Mr. Garvin after the 2017 tax digest numbers are received.

The need to raise water and sewer rates was discussed as it will have an impact on the upcoming budget. Council may include raising water and sewer rates in the next work shop.

Council agreed to try to hold another work shop at 10:00 a.m. the week of September 11th after the new tax digest numbers are received.

Council decided not to re-schedule the September 4, 2017 Council Meeting that was cancelled due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Work Shop was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Sept. 18, 2017
Approved & Adopted

Mary High - Lee
Mayor

9-18-17

Mara Brown
City Clerk