



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES– Public Hearing
Thursday June 27, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting began at 6:01 pm. Mayor Reynolds, Mayor Pro Tem Inman, Councilmember Honore, and Councilmember Howard were present.

Councilmember Sheppard was present via telephone. Councilmember Wynn was absent.

Councilmember Wynn arrived at 6:07 pm.

Councilmember Sheppard arrived at 6:15 pm.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion – made by Councilmember Honore to approve the June 27, 2024, Public Hearing agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Inman seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

IV. Public Hearing

a. 2025 Millage Rate – Chief Dejarnette, City Administrator

Citizens speaking against:

Ashley Waters, City Clerk, read comments submitted via email speaking against the proposed Millage Rate increase.

Kathleen Dequou – 2399 Randal Avenue – spoke against the proposed millage rate. She also made comments about several concerns she has with the city and city staff.

Patricia Robinson – 6785 Ida Street – spoke against the proposed Millage rate increase because of the rise in costs for everything. She stated that as a senior on a fixed income, she requested the council’s consideration when deciding.

Doreen Carter – spoke against the proposed millage rate and asked that the council accept the rollback rate. She stated that taxes should be tied directly to services and also the budget. She asked that the council use SPLOST dollars instead of increasing the millage.

Arbrie Goodson – 2610 Reagin Street – spoke against the proposed millage rate stating his taxes have gone up considerably in the last 3 years. He stated that he would like to know what new

services could come with the higher rate. He also stated he didn't think it looked attractive to young homeowners looking to purchase a home in the city of Lithonia.

Carleen Anderson – spoke against the proposed millage rate. She urged the council to consider the seniors in the community and stated that she trusted in her neighbors' comments that spoke before her.

Chief Dejarnette provided clarity on the city's recommendation to increase the millage rate. He further explained how the city's staff calculates the millage rate to ensure that the millage rate remains as low as possible.

b. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget - Chief Dejarnette, City Administrator

Citizens speaking against the proposed budget:

Doreen Carter spoke against the proposed budget. She had several questions pertaining to increases in expenses, services and the council's salary. She asked the council and city accountants to take a deeper look and make the hard but necessary cuts.

Kathleen Dequo stated "Ditto."

Citizen did not give her name -spoke against the proposed budget. Asked that council make some cuts in the budget to help citizens with taxes.

Citizen did not give his name – spoke against the proposed budget.

Councilmember Howard stated that she would have liked to have more time to comb through the budget and further discuss the options but unfortunately, there is no time.

Councilmember Honore stated that the main concern about the budget is the tax collection. He stated that the city is seeing its lowest tax collection rate this year at 70%, leaving the city with a \$200,000.00 shortfall. He stated that he understands the concerns of the citizens.

Councilmember Wynn stated that she understood where everyone is coming from. She stated that these decisions also affect her. She clarified that these decisions are hard, but they have to be made.

Mayor Pro Tem Inman stated that when you're in a position of leadership, people don't see the work done to move the city forward. She stated that the choices made today will help build the future city everyone wants to see.

V. Executive Session (If Necessary)

(When an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate)

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to enter Executive Session for Personnel and Real Estate. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Inman to exit Executive Session. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Inman to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Attest:



Ashley Waters, City Clerk





Shameka Reynolds, Mayor