

**CITY OF METTER
PUBLIC HEARING
2018 PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018
11:00 A.M.**

A public hearing was held at City Hall on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Councilwoman Amy Harrelson
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
Councilman Paul MacGregor
City Manager Mandi Cody
City Clerk Angie Conner
Police Chief Robert Shore
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease was absent from this hearing.

GUESTS

Alton Slater
Vina Faye Slater
Coty Holloway
Brian Aasheim – Candler County Administrator

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the hearing to order and welcomed everyone.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to give citizens the opportunity to express their concerns on the proposed 2018 millage rate increase.

The city proposes to increase the 2018 property taxes it will levy by 22.2 percent over the rollback millage rate, from 9.983 a year ago to 11.983 this year.

Mr. Slater wanted to know if the city could accomplish this without raising taxes by 2 mills; by searching other avenues. He said we are pricing ourselves out of the growth market.

Called Meeting/Mediation, June 11, 2018

Mayor Boyd agreed that it is difficult for people to bare the expenses. He said that he thinks the problem goes back to the collapse in 2008. We must look at where we have been and where we are going. Nothing that the city buys or does has gotten any cheaper. Some bids have come in lower on projects, but not paid for through the general fund.

Most taxes are used for salaries and benefits for the employees. We are struggling to replace infrastructure. Anything we can purchase through SPLOST, we do. We cannot use SPLOST for operating expenses.

Mayor Boyd explained that the city had to spend money for new radios. All together the city and county spent over a million dollars. All the city's portion will be paid through SPLOST and most of the county's. We are fortunate to have SPLOST and we do use it.

We also had to purchase new financial software which cost around \$80,000. We could not purchase that from SPLOST. We needed the new software to create efficiency.

Mr. Slater questioned the city buying 5 new police vehicles at one time instead of one each year. Mayor Boyd explained that after 2008, we had to hold tight and not buy cars, so our cars wore out and we had to replace them. The radios were bought through a USDA lease purchase program with low interest and a \$20,000 grant. The lease payments will be paid through SPLOST.

Mr. Slater was concerned over a big hole in S. Williams Street. Mayor Boyd informed him that S. Williams Street is on the TIA list. Once we have completed the water and sewer lines then we will resurface the street.

Mayor Boyd highlighted some of the infrastructure improvement projects that are currently underway and that are being scheduled in the near future.

This was the second of the required three public hearings for public input regarding the proposed two-mill increase by the city, the second consecutive increase in two years. The third public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Mayor Boyd closed the hearing at 11:30 a.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk