

**CITY OF METTER
PUBLIC HEARING
2018 PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

A public hearing was held at City Hall on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Mayor Pro tem Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilwoman Amy Harrelson
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
Councilman Paul MacGregor
City Manager Mandi Cody
City Clerk Angie Conner
Director of Tourism/Business Development Heidi Jeffers
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

GUESTS

Alton Slater
Vina Faye Slater
Gloria Johnson
Amy Henry
Bryan Aasheim
Julia Boston
Martha Smith
Harold Boston, Jr.
Mary Summerlin
Karen H. Mountain
Dorothy Tillman
Judy Johnson

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.

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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. Boson questioned the reason for the tax increase. Mayor Boyd explained that the city had a big increase in insurance premiums. We are paying out more and the digest has not gone up. We are incurring expenses on software (\$80,000) and we can't use SPLOST funds for that purchase. We also can't use SPLOST funds for operating expenses. The tax digest has quit growing.

Mayor Boyd informed the group that last year 1 mill equaled \$75,000. This year one mill will equal around \$77,000. Councilwoman Kilcrease announced that the council must do what we must do to operate.

Mayor Boyd said that the city is trying to recruit new industry through the Industrial Authority. The city is working on Economic Development through our Comprehensive Plan with the foody destination concept. We are adding a Georgia Grown Store to the Welcome Center and partnering with Georgia Southern University on a food incubator. GSU is in the process now of performing a feasibility study on the food incubator project.

Ms. Gloria Johnson was complaining about all the trash in her area. She suggested putting up a camera to see who is littering and charge them.

Ms. Martha Smith asked why the city always rules out things that want to come here. Mayor Boyd explained to get another grocery store we would have to have a population greater than 20,000 to support it. Most stuff is based on population. These decisions are based on economics.

Mr. Harald Boston, Jr. said that Metter is in a prime spot because we are so close to I16. We are in a perfect location. He said he doesn't understand why we can't get any industry here. Mayor Boyd said that most industries are looking for a building. We used to have a spec building but now we don't so they look at other places. It would be hard for us to build a building. We have increased our contribution to the Industrial Authority from \$20,000 to \$70,000.

Ms. Martha Smith mentioned the drainage problem behind her house at 620 N. Leroy St. Mayor Boyd said that the city will be working on that problem.

There were some other questions about the city sweeping streets. Mayor Boyd explained that the city is training other employees on how to operate the street sweeper. In the past we had only one employee that knew how.

Another person reported yard debris on Lincoln Street that had been there over a month. Ms. Cody asked the citizens to let her know when there is a problem.

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There was a complaint about the street behind Pleasant View Nursing Home and about an abandoned house on NE Broad Street. Mayor Boyd informed the citizens that the city will be working on these problems.

This was the third required hearing for public input regarding the proposed two-mill increase by the city.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Mayor Boyd closed the hearing at 6:41 p.m. and announced a called meeting to follow.

Angie Conner, City Clerk