



**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
CITY OF DULUTH, GA
JULY 23, 2018**

PRESENT: Mayor Harris, Council members Bomar, Carden, Jones, Kelkenberg and Whitlock, City Manager, Department Directors, City Attorney

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY19 BUDGET - \$547,141 – STORMWATER DETENTION {A}

City Manager James Riker explained that in November 2014, the City Council, adopted Tax Allocation District (TAD) Resolution #1, authorizing the use of TAD financing, in the amount of \$1,950,000, for the reimbursement of cost associated with the acquisition of 6.53 acres of property, construction of a master stormwater facility on the property and associated environmental studies, technical reviews and closing costs. The TAD Resolution authorized \$1,400,000 for land acquisition and \$550,000 for construction of the master stormwater facility.

Home South Communities recently completed construction of the master stormwater facility and consistent with development conditions is requesting reimbursement for said construction. Accordingly, staff is requesting a budget amendment be approved to add \$547,141 in General Fund prior year reserves to the Downtown Detention Facility capital project (CD-68) for the cost associated with the purchase of the master stormwater facility.

Approval of this item adds \$547,141 in General Fund prior year reserves to the Downtown Detention Facility - Stormwater Collection & Disposal - Site Improvements line item.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whitlock, seconded by Councilmember Kelkenberg, to approve the budget amendment to add \$547,141 in General Fund prior year reserves to the Downtown Detention Facility - Stormwater Collection & Disposal line item.

Those voting for: Council members Bomar, Carden, Jones, Kelkenberg and Whitlock
Motion carried.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

1. PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE – 2018

(B)

Mayor Harris opened the public hearing.

City Manager James Riker came forward to explain the proposed rate. Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trends of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board of tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and increase the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia Law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's new digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

Finance Manager Ken Sakmar explained that the previous TAVT revenue continues to decrease as vehicle tax structure was changed several years ago.

The current millage rate is 6.551 and the rollback rate has been computed at 6.288. Therefore, reassessments have added the equivalent of .263 mills, representing \$364,828 in revenue. On an individual level, this figure changes the amount a \$200,000 homeowner would pay by about \$20.

Mr. Riker highlighted property tax exemption amounts and the millage rate history. He also explained that the Capital Reserves were reviewed by the Citizen's Budget Committee, whose primary recommendations were to manage funding for facilities maintenance projects, and take into account seed money for possible redevelopment and future technology needs, and satisfying current debt. They also did not want to see a reduction in services to achieve these steps.

The FY 19 budget tentatively adopted by the City of Duluth requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate and was projected to use \$1,070,63 of reserves to balance.

Mayor Harris called for discussion from Council.

Councilmember Bomar referenced the NOW initiatives to improve communities and homes, and said she sees City Hall as the "people's house" which really needs attention and cleaning for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Councilmember Carden said he would like the NOW efforts to think about identifying projects that could help the elderly and their aging homes, perhaps setting aside some of the added revenue to assist people.

The Mayor called for questions/comments from the public. There being none, she closed the public hearing and announced that no official action of Council will be taken today. The second public hearing is scheduled to be held August 13th at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, and the third public hearing is scheduled to be held August 13th at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

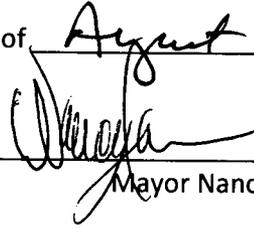
III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Bomar, seconded by Councilmember Carden, to adjourn at 6:20 pm.

Those voting for: Council members Bomar, Carden, Jones, Kelkenberg and Whitlock
Motion carried.

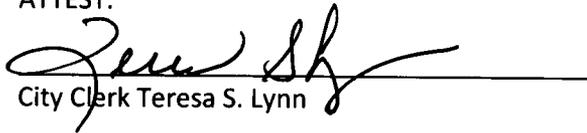
KM 7/25/18

Approved this 13 day of August, 2018.



Mayor Nancy Harris

ATTEST:



City Clerk Teresa S. Lynn