



**City of Flowery Branch
City Council Meeting
Thursday, June 18, 2020, 6:00 PM
City of Flowery Branch City Hall
5410 Pine Street, Flowery Branch GA, 30542**



CALL PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER:

Mayor Mike Miller called the City Council meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Present: Mayor Mike Miller and Council Members, Joe Anglin, Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah and Chris Mundy

Absent: Councilperson Leslie Jarchow

Also present were Bill Andrew, City Manager, Vickie Short, City Clerk, Ron Bennett, City Attorney, Rich Atkinson, Planning Director, Alisha Gamble, Finance Director, and Chris Hulsey, Deputy Chief.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Mike Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING:

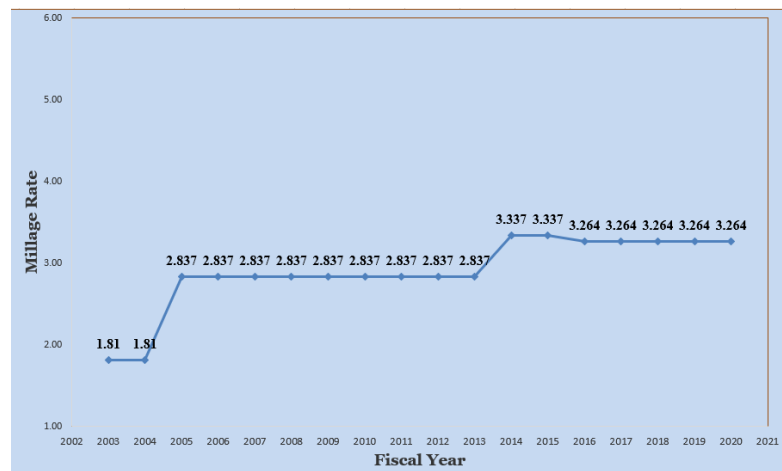
Resolution 20-018-To Adopt the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Annual Budget

Ordinance 596-To Adopt an ad valorem tax rate for Tax Year 2020/Fiscal 2021

Ms. Gamble reviewed both items together and summarized the following:

The chart below shows the millage history for the City from 2003-2020. Over the past 17 years, there were three periods of millage fluctuations:

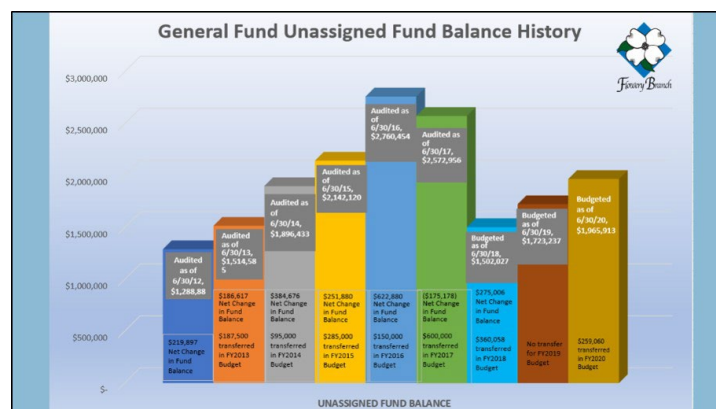
- 2004 to 2005: increase from 1.81 to 2.837 for a total increase of 1.027 mills.
- 2013 to 2014: increase from 2.837 to 3.337 for a total increase of 0.50 mills.
- 2015 to 2016: decrease from 3.337 to 3.264 for a total decrease of 0.073 mills



- From fiscal year 2016-2020 the City's millage rate has been 3.264 mills. Staff is recommending 3.264 mills for fiscal year 2020.
- According to the Hall County Tax Assessors Office, the average fair market value of a home in our area is \$250,000 which assessed at 40% of market value calculates to \$326.40 per taxpayer. This is an increase of \$8.60 per taxpayer. 3.264 mills will generate \$1,421,465 in tax revenue for the City to provide services for citizens of Flowery Branch.
- Keeping the millage rate at 3.264 mills, New or Improved Properties estimate to increase revenue by \$90,267 and Reassessment of Existing Real Property estimate to increase revenue by \$42,211.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made certain precautions related to anticipated decreases in revenue for the FY2021.
- Major general fund revenues have been reduced between 10-25% such as LOST, Excise Tax, Alcohol Licenses, Court Fines, etc.)
- To help with these revenue cuts, we have use of fund balance reserves in this budget of 10.6%. (\$556,257)

General Fund Expenditures

- All Departments: New positions eliminated – hold current staffing
- Reduce operational costs
- Overall General Fund Budget = -2.17%



- The above chart shows the unassigned fund balance history for the general fund. The Government Finance Officers Association recommends no less than 2 months reserves of expenses but our Council voted to take a more conservative approach and maintain 4.5

months reserves each year. This budget does present coverage of the 4.5 months of reserves for expenditures.

- With our budget cuts and use of fund balance in the fiscal year 2021 budget, at this time we are able to still maintain 4.5 months reserves.
- We will continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on our budget throughout the year.

Water and Wastewater Fund Revenues and Expenses

- Water and Sewer Revenue and Expenses show a minimal change of .93% by following the same budget guidelines as the general fund – reduction in revenues and expenditure cuts.
- Use of unrestricted fund balance is 0.05% (%115,814)
- Council voted to maintain 6 months of expenditure reserves each year. This budget does present coverage of the 6 months of reserves for expenditures.
- With our budget cuts and use of fund balance in the fiscal year 2021 budget, at this time we are able to still maintain 6 months reserves.
- We will continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on our budget throughout the year.

Tax Allocation District (TAD) and Hotel/Motel Tax

- The Tax Allocation District Budget increases is due to the bond financing in March of 2020 for the downtown redevelopment project.
- The Hotel Motel Fund budget is reduced by 18%.

SPLOST

Fiscal year 2021 will be the first year of SPLOST 8. The categories for the six-year program include:

- Roads, streets, bridges and sidewalks for \$3,168,230
- Public Works vehicles, facilities and equipment for \$383,384
- Parks facilities, land and equipment for \$415,000
- Public safety vehicles and equipment for \$276,000

Local Resources Fund

- Various miles of road paving is planned for FY2021 along with the Main Street Roofing Project, Caboose and Depot Building Repairs, and annual debt payments for Lights Ferry Roundabout and City Hall.

Water Sewer Capital Projects Fund

- For the Water Sewer Capital Projects Fund, the 2021 projects and future projects focus on the plant expansion and water line improvements projects. Projects noted on this schedule may change slightly as the planning phase continues with City management and consultants.

The City-wide budget change for the recommended fiscal year 2021 year is 28.30%.

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 20-018, to adopt the fiscal year 2021 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ed Lezaj 5612 Newberry Point Drive, Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Mr. Lezaj asked if the mill rate will be 3.264. Also asked if the City has seen a difference in our tax digest with all of our new construction. Ms. Gamble stated the tax digest is not reflective of these changes yet.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Consider a CUP (Conditional Use Permit) submitted by Mr. Calvin Tanner to continue his previously approved auto repair business in a residentially zoned area.

Mr. Atkinson presented a recap of the CUP for Mr. Calvin Tanner. This is a renewal of the original business license which expires July 1, 2020. Staff recommends that we approve the permit as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ed Lezaj-5612 Newberry Point Drive, Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Mr. Lezaj expressed his concern that this should be denied. He is not comfortable with commercial businesses within residential areas. He also shared examples of his neighborhood of neighbors allegedly running businesses as well as illegal tractor trailer parking and utility trailers on their properties.

ADJOURNMENT WORK SESSION:

Mayor Miller adjourned the public hearings at 6:32 pm.

CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER:

Mayor Miller called the work session to order at 6:32 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - WORK SESSION:

Consider a CUP (Conditional Use Permit) submitted by Mr. Calvin Tanner to continue his previously approved auto repair business in a residentially zoned area.

Mr. Anglin explained the time frame of this Conditional Use Permit is only guaranteed one year. There was a brief discussion of the history of this permit.

Mr. Asbridge voiced a concern that Mr. Tanner planted trees in that area. Mr. Atkinson stressed these cases would be on a strictly one on one basis.

Ms. Farah and Mr. Mundy also expressed concern as well.

Applying for the Tree City USA Program

Mr. Andrew presented the information on the Tree City USA Program. Mr. Andrew gave some examples of trees which have been removed for projects. After a review, Mr. Andrew suggested that Clark, Patterson and Lee will help with creation of a new ordinance.

Mr. Anglin confirmed with Mr. Andrew that the cost of the program will be covered with our current costs for City-wide limb pickup.

NEW BUSINESS -WORK SESSION:

Consideration of An Agreement to Annex for Sewer Service with Anchor Inn LLC

Mr. Andrew presented the information on the Anchor Inn LLC property. Upon asking for sewer services provided by the City of Flowery Branch, the business will have to annex into the city. This property is at the corner of Lights Ferry and McEver Road. A payment of \$9,251.00 was made to the City for anticipated sewer tap fees. Two parcels will have to annex as well in order to become contiguous. With this agreement, the City will be able to file for annexation on their behalf.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor Report:

Special thanks to the Police Department in helping celebrate local kids' birthdays during the Pandemic. Mr. Andrew also mentioned the Vans shoes giveaways for local children.

We have a local high school student Jonathan Hughes sign with Philadelphia Phillies. Mr. Miller welcomed Vickie Short as our new City Clerk. Mr. Miller congratulated Amy Farah on her recent State teacher award.

Mr. Miller stated on July 2nd meeting that the Jim Crow Road name will be changed to G.C. Road within our 400 ft of the road. This is how Mr. Crow signed his name.

Council Reports:

Ms. Farah congratulated staff and council members on high school graduates.

Mr. Anglin credited Mary Jones on helping the City obtain a grant for the roundabout.

Mr. Asbridge listed several items that our Police Department does for our community. He is concerned Council might be moving to quick on the Jim Crow Road name change since he has not seen anyone living in the City complain.

Mr. Mundy also commended the Police Department on the help community.

Mr. Andrew also shared that the South Hall Rotary Club still plans on their yearly August 15 with restrictions in place because of the pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT WORK SESSION:

Mayor Miller adjournment the work session on 7:09 pm.

VOTING SESSION AGENDA:

CALL VOTING SESSION TO ORDER:

Mayor Miller called the voting session to order at 7:09 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Leah Long 5914 Stuart Drive, Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Ms. Long is doing a documentary film on the Jim Crow Road name change. She feels the road is not honoring Mr. Crow. With our increasing diversity within our community, she feels the change is necessary.

Ed Lezaj-5612 Newberry Point Drive, Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Mr. Lezaj further expressed his concern about commercial businesses within residential areas. He once again shared examples of his neighborhood of neighbors allegedly running businesses as well as illegal tractor trailer parking and utility trailers on their properties.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - VOTING SESSION:

Ordinance 596-To Adopt an ad valorem tax rate for Tax Year 2020/Fiscal 2021

Attorney Bennett read the caption to Ordinance 596

There was a motion made to approve the first reading of Ordinance 596.

MOTION: Amy Farah
SECOND: Chris Mundy
AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin
NAYS: None
Motion carried

Resolution 20-018-To Adopt the Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Budget

There was a motion to postpone Resolution 20-018 until June 25, 2020.

MOTION: Joe Anglin
SECOND: Chris Mundy
AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin
NAYS: None
Motion carried

Consider a CUP (Conditional Use Permit) submitted by Mr. Calvin Tanner to continue his previously approved auto repair business in a residentially zoned area.

There was a motion made to approve the request as conditioned by staff.

MOTION: Chris Mundy
SECOND: Joe Anglin
AYES: Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin
NAYS: Ed Asbridge
Motion carried

Consider Resolution 20-016 for Depot and Caboose Repairs

There was a motion made to approve Resolution 20-016 for Depot and Caboose Repairs as presented.

MOTION: Amy Farah
SECOND: Ed Asbridge
AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin
NAYS: None
Motion carried

Applying for the Tree City USA Program

There was a motion made to approve.

MOTION: Chris Mundy
SECOND: Ed Asbridge
AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin
NAYS: None
Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS - VOTING SESSION:

Consideration of An Agreement to Annex for Sewer Service with Anchor Inn LLC

There was a motion made to approve the agreement.

MOTION: Amy Farah
SECOND: Joe Anglin
AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin
NAYS: None
Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was a motion made to enter executive session at 7:25pm for property acquisition/disposition and personnel matters.

MOTION: Chris Mundy
SECOND: Joe Anglin
AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin
NAYS: None
Motion carried

There was a motion made to reconvene open session at 8:20 pm.

MOTION: Amy Farah
SECOND: Chris Mundy
AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin
NAYS: None
Motion carried

There was a motion made to approve Joseph Summer as the Public Defender.

MOTION: Chris Mundy

SECOND: Amy Farah

AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin

NAYS: None

Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion made to adjourn at 8:21 pm.

MOTION: Amy Farah

SECOND: Joe Anglin

AYES: Ed Asbridge, Amy Farah, Chris Mundy, Joe Anglin

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Mayor – Mike Miller

Date

City Clerk – Vickie Short