

**City of Bowdon**  
**Called Mayor and Council Meeting/Public Hearing**  
**September 6, 2018**  
**10:00AM**

**I.-IV. Agenda Items:**

The Mayor and City Council met during a called session on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, 182 Grammar School Road, Bowdon Georgia. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Chaffin at 10:00AM.

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Susan Pierce.

Members present: Mayor Jim Chaffin  
Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson  
Councilmember Marty Johnson  
Councilmember Noah Steed  
Councilmember Wes McEntyre

Staff present: City Manager Gary Bullock  
City Clerk Susan Pierce  
Police Chief Mark Brock

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Wes McEntyre, and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of Mayor & Council called meeting on August 27, 2018 were read and presented for approval. Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the minutes; second by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Business Session**

- A. **Public Hearing – 2018 Millage Rate Increase** - This is the first public hearing for the proposed millage rate increase. The 2017 rate is 8.577, and the rollback rate calculated by the County for 2018 is 8.521. Gary noted that, as discussed in the last meeting, the City's digest went down, so we will be collecting less revenue to operate the City. Councilmember McEntyre stated that he was strongly opposed to keeping the same rate as last year, which has to be advertised as a tax increase since the rollback rate from the County is slightly less than our current rate.
- Councilmember Marty Johnson asked how many individuals and businesses would be affected. Gary noted that we didn't have that information.
- Mayor Chaffin stated that for a \$100,000 home, the increase would only be approximately \$2.00.

Marty said he was still on the fence since the increase was such a small amount. Gary stated that he would love to lower taxes, and also that if the assessment stayed the same, the people would pay the same amount as they did last year.

Councilmember Steed stated that it was important to note that by keeping the rate the same, we are already taking a hit to our budget because of the lower assessments. Our budget doesn't allow us to lower our tax revenue.

Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson said that she voted against the recommendation from August 27 to keep the rate the same, and would love for the City to roll back the rate.

Mayor Chaffin stated that the City struggles every year with limited finances to provide services for the citizens. In his opinion, we are not increasing taxes; we are keeping them the same.

Wes reiterated that he was against any increase in taxes, especially since water and sewer rates had gone up in the past few years, and that we need to think about the citizens who are struggling.

Noah said that we do care about the citizens, but our budget is tight, so we need to leave the rate the same or we may have to cut services. He also noted that there were no citizens attending the hearing to give input, and that we have a slightly shrinking tax base and even with the millage rate the same we are going to have to figure out how to deal with slightly less revenue in the budget.

Marty said that people who have seen the budget ask him why certain departments have had their budgets cut. Gary mentioned that maybe we would have more public input at the 6:30PM hearing this evening.

Jan mentioned that she appreciated the open discussion where everyone could come to a clear understanding of where everyone stands.

Jim said again that he was okay either way, but that we do need to keep in mind that we struggle every year with finances.

Jim asked if there was any further discussion at this time. There being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

*Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson to adjourn the meeting; second by Councilmember McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.*

## **X. Adjournment**

---

Mayor Jim Chaffin

---

City Clerk Susan Pierce