

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 (6:00 p.m.)
Kayse Room

At the Regular Council Meeting held on the above date the following members were present:

Mayor: Matt Seale
City Council: Mona Paulk, Lemora Moses,
Steven Hudson, and Claire Clayton
City Clerk: Lucile Middlebrooks
City Attorney: Warren Mixon
Police Chief: Billy Hancock
Fire Chief: Will Towson
Assistant Public Director: Recarter Edge
Assistant Public Director: Corneilus Hall
Absent: Councilwoman Patrice Y.W. Manley

- First: Mayor Matt Seale called the meeting to order and determined a quorum, prayer by Assistant Public Director Corneilus Hall, and then the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was pledged and spoken by everyone.
- Second: Mayor Matt Seale called for a motion to adopt the Agenda for Tuesday, August 11, 2020 with the addition of Executive Session.
Motion by Councilman Lemora Moses and 2nd by Councilwoman Mona Paulk to adopt the Agenda for Tuesday, August 11, 2020 with the addition of Executive Session.
All in favor say I – Voted 4 yes; Opposes none - Motion passed.
Councilwoman Patrice Y.W. Manley is absent.
- Third: Mayor Matt Seale called for a motion for the approval and adopting of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2020
Motion by Councilwoman Mona Paulk and 2nd by Councilwoman Claire Clayton for the approval and adopting of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2020.
All in favor say I -Voted 4 yes; Opposes none – Motion passed.
- Fourth: Setting the Millage for the 2020 Advalorem Taxes
Mayor Matt Seale stated the Millage Rate and the Current 2020 Property Tax Digest and 5-year History of Levy has been properly advertised and we had a public hearing before tonight’s Council Meeting.

NOTICE

The City of Ocala does hereby announce that there will be a public hearing to review the millage rate for the 2020 City Taxes at City Hall 111 N Irwin Avenue on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Called Council Meeting to set the millage rate for the 2020 City Taxes and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2020 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

CITY		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
C i t y w i d e	V A L U E	Real & Personal	50,116,017	51,552,508	48,906,434	50,907,148	50,123,818	50,283,861	
		Motor Vehicles	2,726,910	2,213,590	1,675,420	1,397,890	1,152,350	945,110	
		Mobile Homes	597,124	500,524	580,364	554,089	612,303	593,343	
		Timber - 100%							
		Heavy Duty Equipment							
		Gross Digest	53,440,051	54,346,622	51,164,218	52,859,127	51,888,471	51,822,314	
		Less Exemptions	6,135,875	6,350,418	3,889,689	5,302,442	5,069,091	4,586,944	
		NET DIGEST VALUE	47,304,176	47,996,204	47,274,529	47,556,685	46,819,380	47,235,370	
		R A T E	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	23.250	23.260	23.450	22.760	22.6200	23.0800
			Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	4.9500	4.9600	5.450	4.760	4.620	5.080
NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	18.300		18.300	18.000	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000		
T A X	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$865,666	\$878,331	\$850,942	\$856,020	\$842,749	\$850,237		
	Net Tax \$ Increase		\$12,664	(\$27,389)	\$5,079	(\$13,271)	\$7,488		
	Net Tax % Increase		1.46%	-3.12%	0.60%	-1.55%	0.89%		

After a short discussion, Mayor Matt Seale called for a motion. Motion by Councilman Lemora Moses and 2nd by Councilman Steven Hudson to set the 2020 Millage rate at 18.00 – the same as last year’s millage rate. All in favor please raise your hand – Voted 4 yes; Opposes none – Motion carries unanimously.

Fifth: Opening Bids for Auditing Services
 Mayor Matt Seale stated that we did not receive any bids for Auditing Services. City Attorney Warren Mixon stated that we do not have to re-advertise. The City Clerk can call local Certified Public Accountants. No vote necessary.

Sixth:

CHIP 2020 Decision

Mayor Matt Seale state that we have two choices in reference on how to proceed with the CHIP 2020 projects:

1. Stick to budget and if owner cannot come up with additional funds drop them from the grant; or
2. Increase the City project funds at the expense of projects further down the line. In other words, doing possibly 3-4 instead of 6 projects and using the extra funds set aside for those to pay for the overages.

After some discussion Mayor Matt Seale called for a motion.

Motion by Councilman Lemora Moses and 2nd by Councilwoman Claire Clayton to increase the City project funds at the expense of projects further down the line. and do 3-4 instead of 6 projects and using the extra funds set aside for those to pay for the overages.

All in favor please raise your hand – Voted 4 yes; Opposes none – Motion carries unanimously.

Seventh:

Utility Rate Recommendation

Mayor Matt Seale presented the Council with a proposed utility rate increase:

Current Rates

	Base Fee	Consumption	RATE/1000 gals below 10K gals	RATE/1000 gals above 10K gals
Commercial Gas	\$25.00			
Commercial Gas- MULT/RATE1	\$3.75			
Commercial Gas- MULT/RATE2	\$25.00			
Commercial Gas- Mult R3	\$25.00			
Commercial Sewer- INSIDE	\$12.75	2000	\$1.70	\$1.85
Commercial Sewer- OUTSIDE	\$22.75	2000	\$1.80	\$1.95
Commercial Sanitation	\$19.00			
Commercial Water- INSIDE	\$12.75	2000	\$1.65	\$1.80
Commercial Water- OUTSIDE	\$22.75	2000	\$1.75	\$1.90
Residential GAS	\$6.00			
Residential Sewer- INSIDE	\$12.75	2000	\$1.70	\$1.85
Residential Sewer-OUTSIDE	\$20.25	2000	\$1.80	\$1.95
Residential Sanitation	\$19.00			
Residential Water- INSIDE	\$10.25	2000	\$1.65	\$1.80
Residential Water- OUTSIDE	\$20.25	2000	\$1.75	\$1.90

Proposed Rates

	Base Fee	Consumption	RATE/1000 gals below 10K gals	RATE/1000 gals above 10K gals
Commercial Gas	\$25.00			
Commercial Gas- MULT/RATE1	\$3.75			
Commercial Gas- MULT/RATE2	\$25.00			
Commercial Gas- Mult R3	\$25.00			
Commercial Sewer- INSIDE	\$12.75	2000	\$1.75	\$1.95
Commercial Sewer- OUTSIDE	\$22.75	2000	\$1.85	\$2.05
Commercial Sanitation	\$19.00			
Commercial Water- INSIDE	\$12.75	2000	\$1.70	\$1.85
Commercial Water- OUTSIDE	\$22.75	2000	\$1.80	\$1.95
Residential GAS	\$6.00			
Residential Sewer- INSIDE	\$12.75	2000	\$1.75	\$1.90
Residential Sewer-OUTSIDE	\$20.25	2000	\$1.85	\$2.00
Residential Sanitation	\$19.00			
Residential Water- INSIDE	\$10.25	2000	\$1.70	\$1.85
Residential Water- OUTSIDE	\$20.25	2000	\$1.80	\$1.95

No vote needed. The Council will vote on the proposed utility rate increase at the next City Council Meeting.

Eighth:

CARES Act Resolution

Mayor Matt Seale asked City Clerk Lucile Middlebrooks to explain the CARES Act Resolution to the Council. The CARES Act Resolution is adopted by all of the Cities receiving funds from the state government for COVID-19 expenses incurred since March 1, 2020. To receive the funds the cities must adopt the resolution, abide by the terms and conditions set by the state, and report expenses to the state.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OCILLA TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) TERMS AND CONDITIONS AGREEMENT; TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT PAYMENTS, INCLUDING ALL UNDERSTANDINGS AND ASSURANCES CONTAINED WITHIN SUCH AGREEMENT; TO DIRECT AND AUTHORIZE THE PERSON IDENTIFIED AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY, OR THE DESIGNEE OF THE CITY TO ACT IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION; AND TO PROVIDE SUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS MAY BE REQUIRED.

WHEREAS, in an effort to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, the United States government has made available grant funding through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to the State of Georgia, which was established within Section 601 of the Social Security Act, as added by Section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act);

WHEREAS, Governor Brian P. Kemp has authorized the sharing of CRF allocations and disbursements in a phased, measure approach with local governments across the State of Georgia;

WHEREAS, Governor Kemp has acknowledged the critical need that such CRF funding be released to local governments experiencing immediate need as quickly as possible and has directed the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) to coordinate with local governments to achieve allocation and disbursement of such CRF funding;

WHEREAS, OPB has created and will administer a grant management system, GeorgiaCARES, which local governments, including the City shall utilize in order to received allocations and disbursements of CRF funding; and

WHEREAS, the OPB and the State of Georgia, require formal, official action of the City governing authority to that the CRF funding may be disbursed to the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OCILLA _____, GEORGIA:

Section 1. Execution of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Terms and Conditions. The Mayor and Council hereby authorize the execution, delivery, and performance of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Terms and Conditions (Agreement) in substantially the form attached hereto as a composite Exhibit A and the acceptance of payments, including all understandings and assurances contained herein.

Section 2. Other Actions Authorized. The City hereby directs and authorizes the Mayor of the City Of Ocilla or the designee of the Mayor to act in connection with the Grant application and to provide such additional information as may be required by OPB, federal, or state government.

Section 3. City Attorney. The City of Ocilla, by and through its governing authority, hereby acknowledges that it has had its legal counsel review the Agreement and that the members of the governing authority itself have reviewed the Agreement and further acknowledge that any rule of construction to the effect that any ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting party shall not be employed in the interpretation of the Agreement.

Section 4. Repealer. All motions, orders, ordinances, bylaws, resolutions, and parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed as reviving any motion, order, ordinance, bylaw, resolution, or part thereof.

Section 5. Effective Date; Severability. This resolution shall become effective immediately, and should the Agreement have been executed by the Mayor or designee before the effective date of this resolution, then this resolution shall stand as an official act of the governing authority of the City approving of such execution of the Agreement. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision hereof be held invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability thereof shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof.

PASSED, ADOPTED, SIGNED, APPROVED, and EFFECTIVE this _____ day of _____, 2020.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF _____

ATTEST:

CLERK

After the Council read the resolution, Mayor Matt Seale called for a motion. Motion by Councilwoman Mona Paulk and 2nd by Councilman Lemora Moses to adopt the CARES Act Resolution.

All in favor please raise your hand – Voted 4 yes: Opposes none – Motion carries unanimously.

Ninth: Executive Session
Motion by Councilwoman Mona Paulk and 2nd by Councilman Lemora Moses to go into Executive Session for possible litigation purposes.
All in favor please raise your hand – Voted 4 yes: Opposes none – Motion carries unanimously

Motion by Councilwoman Mona Paulk and 2nd by Councilman Steven Hudson to come out of Executive Session.
All in favor say I – Voted 4: Opposes none – Motion carries unanimously.

No vote needed on the executive session discussion.

Tenth: Reports from Committees
No Reports

Eleventh: Mayor Matt Seale called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion by Councilman Lemora Moses and 2nd by Councilman Steven Hudson to adjourn the meeting.
All in favor say I – Voted 4 yes; Opposes none – Motion carries unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

MAYOR MATT SEALE

CITY CLERK LUCILE MIDDLEBROOKS