

**CITY OF METTER  
PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE INCREASE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2017  
5:30 P.M.**

A public hearing was held at City Hall on Wednesday, August 16, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the hearing were the following officials:

Mayor Billy Trapnell  
Councilman Ed Boyd  
Councilwoman Marsha Colson  
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease  
City Clerk Angie Conner  
Captain Robert Shore  
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

Attending the hearing were the following guests:

Molly Olson – Director, Candler County Industrial Authority  
Penny Moore – Citizen  
Lena Braziel - Citizen

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Mayor Trapnell called the hearing to order and welcomed everyone.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the hearing was to present the tentatively adopted 2017 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 28.6 percent. The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 9.983 mills, an increase of 1.99 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.993 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$79.60 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$300,000 is approximately \$238.80.

This is third and final required public hearing.

Mayor Trapnell explained that the city and staff have really strived to get by without a tax increase. In 2008 there were decreases in home values. The state implemented a lot of exemptions which reduced the city's income little by little but salaries, insurance, and other expenses were steadily going up. We have finally reached the point that we need to increase our revenue. The proposed increase is not a lot but it is an increase.

Mayor Trapnell explained that all of the city's insurance premiums have gone up. The property insurance is up due to the repairs to the gym that caught on fire. The rising health insurance premiums have caused an increase to the city's budget. Also, the cost of equipment has risen. It has become necessary for us to find more revenue. The county is seeing an increase in their revenue due to solar panels located in the county. The city is not reaping those benefits. Next year, the city will be receiving tax revenue on the solar panels located inside the city and from the peanut plant.

Councilman Boyd stated that the city has been operating in a deficit for three years. Mayor Trapnell said that we need 3 months of operating money in our fund balance so we can't keep dipping into that money. He said he is hopeful that SPLOST will pass to contribute to our big projects.

Mayor Trapnell said that our City Manager, Mandi Cody, has gone through the budget with a fine tooth comb. She makes recommendations and the council has to make the decisions. Police and Fire are in need of equipment. We are thankful for the money that Metter Ford donated to the Fire Department.

Mrs. Penny Moore asked the question as to why the fire department has become such a priority over streets and roads. She said that the some of the streets in Metter are terrible. Mrs. Moore said that she didn't think a city of 5,000 people needs a fulltime fire department. Mayor Trapnell said that the city is meeting requirements of the ISO. Councilman Boyd said that we can't get enough people to volunteer. The training is difficult for people who have jobs. We had a critical problem having enough volunteers during the day.

Councilman Boyd said that we have a schedule for street repairs. The State of Georgia has cut back on the amount of money they send for resurfacing. It takes about \$120,000 to pave one mile. The streets are ranked by priority. Fire and Police are emergency services.

Councilwoman Colson added that the city's equipment is out of date.

Mrs. Moore said that she wanted a schedule of the roads to be repaired and copies of the equipment replacement. She said that our town looks horrible. There are homes for sale all over town. We can't present our town for economic development when it looks so run down. She said that it is embarrassing.

Councilman Boyd said that the city is making efforts to change that. We have a new city manager who is making changes for the betterment of the community.

Mrs. Moore said that to her the streets seem more important than an eight man fire department.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After no further comments, Mayor Trapnell thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the hearing at 6:00 p.m.

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Angie Conner, City Clerk

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William M. Trapnell, Mayor