

MAYOR
Linda M. Blechinger

**CITY OF AUBURN
CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING in Council Chambers
FOR
October 6, 2022**

City Council
Peggy J. Langley
Robert L. Vogel, III
Taylor Sisk
Jamie L. Bradley

CITY CLERK
Joyce Brown

Present: Mayor : Linda Blechinger
Council Member: Peggy Langley
Council Member: Bob Vogel-Absent
Council Member: Taylor Sisk
Council Member: Jamie Bradley

City Staff in Attendance: City Administrator Alex Mitchem, Chief Hodge, Joyce Brown, Iris Akridge, Michael Parks, Johnathen Eggleston, Leigh Anne Bland, Bel Outwater, Jack Wilson.

Mayor Blechinger called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chief Hodge gave the invocation.

Chief Hodge led the pledge to the flag.

Item: **Public Hearing for Auburn-Barrow County 2022 Millage Rate and Auburn-Gwinnett County 2022 Millage Rate**

Mayor Blechinger stated that the City has two public hearings tonight on the City's millage rates for Barrow and Gwinnett Counties. The Millage Rates are set separately for each County based on the information each County provides to the City about the tax digest. If there is no objection, the City will conduct both hearings at the same time. Our City Clerk, **Joyce Brown**, will summarize the Millage Rates proposed for each County, first for Barrow, then for Gwinnett.

There were no objections to both Public Hearings being presented at the same time.

Joyce Brown presented.

Mayor Blechinger asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing for the Auburn 2022 millage rates for Barrow and Gwinnett Counties.

Motion: Made by **Council Member Langley** to open the Public Hearing for the Auburn 2022 millage rates for Barrow and Gwinnett Counties.

Seconded: By **Council Member Sisk**.

Mayor Blechinger asked for any discussion. There was none.

Vote was taken with all members present voting yes. Public Hearing opened.

Mayor Blechinger asked for any citizen comments in favor of the Millage Rates as advertised.

Howard Hawthorne spoke in favor of the Millage Rates as advertised.

Mayor Blechinger asked for any citizen comments in opposition to the Millage Rates as advertised.

None were given.

Mayor Blechinger asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing for the 2022 Millage Rates.

Motion: Made by **Council Member Langley** to close the Public Hearing for the 2022 Millage Rates.

Seconded: By **Council Member Bradley**.

Mayor Blechinger asked for any discussion. There was none.

Vote was taken with all members present voting yes. Public Hearing closed.

Council Reports and Announcements

Mayor Blechinger asked for any Council Reports and Announcements.

Mayor Blechinger announced that **Council Member Sisk** and **Council Member Bradley** would be graduating from Sgt. Pharr's CPA Class tonight. The Mayor asked them both if they would like to comment on their experience.

Council Member Sisk said he thought it was absolutely fantastic. Said he did not know what to expect. Stated that Sgt. Pharr put them through the ringer some nights. He said it was a blast. That it was absolutely fun. Stated that he was incredibly pleased that the City does this for folks and that it doesn't cost anything.

Council Member Bradley said it has been a good experience as well. Stated that she went in with the intent to learn more about what the Police Dept. might need when they come and ask for it. Also, said that she has a grandson that works at the Sheriffs Dept. and stated that she wanted to experience some of the things that he experiences.

Mayor Blechinger introduced **Sherri Bailey** from Georgia Municipal Association (GMA-). Ms. Bailey thanked Mayor and Council for allowing her to come and speak at the Council Meeting this evening. Ms. Bailey said that she is a Member Services Consultant with Georgia Municipal (GMA) over Districts 5 and 7, Auburn being in District 5. She said that Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) represents all 537 cities in the state of Georgia. She stated that Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) was created in 1933 and is a voluntary non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational services, employee benefits, and technical consulting services to its members. Then she distributed packets to the Mayor, Council, and Department Heads which included upcoming events, upcoming training opportunities, and a Service and Program Report of the services and programs used by the City through GMA.

Item: Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

Mayor Blechinger asked for any Citizens comments for items on tonight's agenda.

None were given.

Item: Consent Agenda

Mayor Blechinger asked if any of the consent agenda items needed to be removed for further discussion.

None were given.

Mayor Blechinger asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda:

- a. September 1, 2022 – Council Business Meeting Minutes
- b. September 15, 2022 – Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
- c. Auburn-Barrow County 2022 Millage Rate – Resolution #14-022
- d. Auburn-Gwinnett County 2022 Millage Rate – Resolution #15-022
- e. Shackelford Park Trimming and Removal of Dead Trees

Motion: Made by **Council Member Langley** to approve the Consent Agenda.

Seconded: By **Council Member Sisk**.

Mayor Blechinger asked for any discussion. There was none.

Vote was taken with all members present voting yes.

Citizen Comments: **Mayor Blechinger** asked for any Citizens Comments.

Charlie Sewell expressed concerns regarding the time the Council Meetings start. Feels that more citizens would attend if the meetings were held later than 5:00PM. Mr. Sewell stated that he conducted a blind survey last month consisting of 74 to 76 people asking what time slot would encourage them to attend a Council Meeting 5:00PM, 6:00PM, or 7:00PM? He said the return that he got was 5:00PM – 11%, 6:00PM – 17%, and 7:00PM – 72%, however; he is unsure of how many people responded the survey.

Mayor Blechinger responded to Charlie Sewell letting him know that when she started with the City 16 years ago, the Council time was 7:00PM and had the same attendance. She said that the time was later changed to 6:00PM and had the same attendance. The Mayor stated that the reason the time was changed to 5:00PM is so that the Dept. Heads and staff that give reports would not have to stay 1 to 2 hours to attend the Council Meetings. The Mayor let Mr. Sewell know that she would take his concerns under consideration and that the subject would be discussed again but that for right now the City does a really good job of getting the agendas out, the minutes out, keeping things posted, keeping people informed, keeping people in the loop, posting on Facebook page, and on City's website and the Council time would remain at 5:00PM.

Item: **Executive Session – Personnel - Tabled**

Mayor Blechinger stated that there would not be executive session this evening.

ADJOURN: **Mayor Blechinger** asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Made by **Council Member Langley** to adjourn.

Seconded: By **Council Member Sisk**.

Mayor Blechinger asked for any discussion. There was none.

Vote was taken with all members present voting yes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Read and approved this _____ Day of November 2022

Attest:

Mayor Linda M. Blechinger
