

Council Meeting
September 19, 2016

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Butch Fausett, Greg Paige, Michael Purvis and Jody Greene.

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Chad Castleberry and members of the public. Attorney Tim Tanner arrived later in the meeting.

Invocation was given by Councilman Purvis.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Purvis made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016 as presented. Councilman Paige seconded. All were in favor.

Public Hearing: Councilman Fausett made a motion to enter into public hearing to gain input on the proposed FY 2016-2017 budget. Councilman Paige seconded. The decision was unanimous. City Manager John Flythe provided the history on the millage rates from 1990 through current. The proposed millage rate for 2016 is 6.401, the same amount since 2012. Even though the proposed rate is the same, it is generating approximately \$50,000 less revenue than last year. He stated the grand total for all city-wide budgets is \$21,790,225, a reduction of \$2,825,975 from last year. He cited this difference being capital projects last year including the electronic metering system, expansion of the natural gas system and improvements to Alabama Road. He reviewed and explained significant changes in the individual line items between the FY 15-16 and proposed FY 16-17 budget for both revenues and expenses, particularly noting that revenues are down for all utility funds. He reviewed the capital items being included for purchase in the new fiscal year. There are no increases in salaries included in the proposed budget. There are a couple of departments that need some adjustments due to market rates but those will be reviewed at a later date. There were no comments or questions from members of the council. The public hearing was declared closed.

Ord #16-03: This ordinance, establishing the tax millage rate for 2016 at 6.401 mills, was read for the first time.

Election Matters: City Clerk Rhonda Rowe advised that qualifying for the Special Election to fill the vacant seat in District 1 will open on Wednesday morning, September 21, 2016 at 8:00 and will end at noon on Friday, September 23, 2016. She further provided that voting will take place at the Jim Battle Community Center. The facility will be divided so that the special election will take place on one side of the building and the general election on the other. If you normally cast your ballot for the general election in Cecil, you will continue to vote in Cecil for that election but will cast your ballot for the city special election at Jim Battle. She explained that anyone who took advantage of early voting would cast both ballots at the County Administration building.

Approval of 10 Year Electrical Rate: City Manager John Flythe explained that rate payers are in different rate classes with the largest commercial class we have being XL. We have a proposed company that would fall into a 2-XL category; meaning they would utilize above 8 Megawatts. Under Georgia law, the City of Adel has the authority to contract for a 10 year period on a power rate and the company is asking for the mayor and council's approval of this contract. Alston and Byrd Law Firm has reviewed/ revised the contract for the city to make sure it complies with all state laws. In addition, our consultant, John Hewitt, has designed the rate tariff portion of the contract. Due to the essence of timing, we are asking the council to give the mayor or city manager authority to execute the contract. The company wants to have the contract complete by the end of this week. Councilman Paige made a motion to authorize the mayor or city manager to execute the contract. Councilman Purvis seconded. All were in favor.

Depot Use Request: Community Christian Academy has asked for permission to use the depot on October 22, 2016 from 7:00-3:00 for their harvest day event. They normally begin setting up the night before. Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Fausett seconded. There were no opposing votes.

Altheia Paige: Mrs. Paige first questioned when the audience was going to be able to voice any concerns with the budget since they did not get to do that during the public hearing held earlier tonight. Mayor Duke stated they could do so at the next meeting, which will be held Monday, September 26, 2016.

Mrs. Paige then stated she would like to bring attention to some things that some are aware of but some others may not be aware of. She finds it hard being that she is a taxpayer just like everyone else here. The first item is theft of time. On September 9, 2016, while attending Grandparent's Day at CCA, there was a city vehicle in the parking lot upon their arrival with a city worker standing inside. They were there for 2 hours and the worker was there the whole time. After leaving, she called Mr. Flythe and advised him of it and asked if the city worker had sick time or vacation time that he had taken to be there for the time he was there. Mr. Flythe was not aware and asked if he could call her back or her stay on hold while he checked into it. He found out the worker was on city time during the whole time he was there. To her that is stealing time. Mr. Flythe did not want to do anything in reference to it and she finds that hard to believe. "While we're out earning our pay time, you have city workers on city time doing what they would like to do leisure and we're out doing what we supposed to do." Her second thing is the official use of city owned vehicles. She's asked and met with Mr. Flythe on several occasions on getting these vehicles marked, if we need to bring them back and park them because they are being used for leisure and pleasure. If you go back and look at what is being paid for gasoline, you cannot imagine the money the city can save if they were parking these vehicles. She was down pumping gas at 5:34 and a city vehicle went to Fred's. She could not believe someone was after hours doing some shopping. Again Mr. Flythe was notified and she was called a liar on August 25th but she has the pictures to prove it. She not only notified Mr. Flythe, she notified some of the others also. She went over and took a picture of the vehicle and the guy coming out of the store. Again, because the worker said that he was not at the store, he believed the worker and because of who she is, she was told this was not true and so she is a liar, which is something she will not tolerate. She is not a liar. She believes

in telling the truth. We can save on these taxpayers. We're paying top salaries for all these workers who are riding around on leisure. We've got to do something Mayor Duke. If it means we need to get us another city manager, that's what we need to do. Again, vehicles not being utilized in District 1. All of you know we had a storm. It was advertised on numerous channels way before the storm came through. I was told that one of the knuckle booms had been retired so we only had one knuckle boom working. Where was the knuckle boom, on the east side. I live on the west side. If you look on the west side, it looks like a mess, trash everywhere. I called. I complained. I called. I complained. I was told that the worker said he came on the west side on Tuesday. The knuckle boom never came on Tuesday. He worked on the east side Monday through Thursday. When I finally said something else, he came and worked from Mayor Duke's laundry mat to halfway on Ninth Street, turned around and went back. So, why are we going to pay overtime up until 6:00 just to clean up the east side of town. The west side needs just as much cleaning as the east side. I'm not asking too much. I'm just asking that we be fair about it. The east side is just important as the west side. I come back, I call again. Mr. Flythe said he had given them overtime until 6:00 so we could get both sides cleaned up. We supposed to get both sides cleaned up, but we're not. So they take the other knuckle boom truck out of retirement to try to clean up the east side. Well, you have two workers on the east side, one worker on the west side. What does he do, he chooses which house he wants to pick up. If it's a small pile, he passes it. If it's someone he's friends with, he stops there so he can talk. I'm a taxpayer. Mayor Duke, your'e elected, Michael Purvis, you're elected; you're the councilman at large. She stated to Mayor Duke, Councilman Purvis, and Councilman Paige that they each needed her vote. Councilman Fausett and Councilman Greene did not need her vote. But every time she has a problem, she calls. Nothing gets done. The people on the east side are calling her house to talk to Councilman Paige about the east side. He doesn't work for the east side, he works for the west side, but he's got to work for the east side and the west side and it's not right. She doesn't take her problems to Councilman Paige, she takes them to Michael Purvis because she feels like it's a conflict of interest and then "I call Mr. Flythe so I can get something done but he don't want to get nothing done until he's on the hot seat when I say I will come before the council". It shouldn't be that way. I expect the mayor and the council work together and get something done within this city. If ya'll can't get nothing done, I will ask that ya'll fire this city manager because he's not holding the workers accountable. Whoever's over your city workers, you've got a car policy, a vehicle policy, you follow it. If they're not following the policy, you fire them. Mayor Duke thanked Mrs. Paige for her concerns about the city and stated they would definitely look into it. She stated she would expect an answer back, if not, she would be back and next time it will be something different.

Employee donations of time: City Manager John Flythe pointed out that we have a number of people out due to sickness and we have some who have run out of sick leave. He wanted to thank the employees who had given up a portion of their sick and/or vacation leave to help make the paychecks whole for these who are out of time. He wanted this board to know that some are doing this for their fellow employees and he thought it was a great thing that employees feel that strongly about other employees.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
