

City of Demorest, Georgia  
Minutes from City Council Meeting

November 7, 2017

6:30 PM

The Mayor and Council met for a scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Present for the meeting was Mayor Rick Austin, Councilmen Jerry Harkness, John Popham and Sean Moore. Also present for the meeting was City Manager Kristi Shead, City Attorney Joey Homans, City Clerk Marlana Sosebee, and Police Chief Robin Krockum. Councilwoman Florence Wikle was absent from the meeting.

City Attorney Joey Homans said the invocation and Mayor Austin led the pledge to the flag.

Mayor Austin called the meeting to order.

Public Hearing for the millage rate to be set was scheduled during this City Council Meeting. Mayor Austin asked if there was anyone present to speak on behalf of the public hearing. No one was present to speak on behalf of setting the millage rate. The due date for the 2017 city taxes will be on January 20, 2018.

Mayor Austin asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. It was decided to table #11 – Consideration of contract for Sewer Operations and #12 Consideration of reduction of tap fees for the Torch Worship Center. Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the amended agenda and a second was received by Councilman Popham. (3-0)

Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from October 3, 2017. A second was received by Councilman Popham. (3-0)

In consideration of closing McMillian Avenue, Jim Betz was present as he has submitted a request to close the road. City Attorney Joey Homans requested of Mr. Betz a sketch of where he would like for it to be considered closed. Once this has been provided then we can move forward with a public hearing regarding the closing of McMillan Avenue.

Councilman Moore made a motion to establish the millage rate for property taxes for 2017 at 7.31 mills and the due date to be January 20, 2018. A second was received by Councilman Popham. (3-0)

Dr. Tony Frye was present to meet with Mayor and Council and express he would like to become a member of our Downtown Development Authority. Councilman Popham made a motion to appoint Dr. Tony Frye to the Downtown Development Authority for a term of four years. A second was received by Councilman Harkness. (3-0)

City Manager Kristi Shead presented to Mayor and Council a draft of the 2018 budget for the City. We will move forward with the first public hearing with the 2018 budget on November 28, 2018.

City Manager Kristi Shead presented an amended employee handbook to Mayor and Council for review. As discussed there are several sections that needs to be reviewed such as in the past we have done comp time however we are recommending that this be eliminated. Mr. Homans states that yes, the Fair Labor Act really advises to steer clear of this practice. There is also an inclement weather section and workplace safety that has been added to the handbook for review. The following also needs to be reviewed for clarification, holidays and PTO time. It was decided we would move forward with the public hearing for

Marlana I Sosebee  
City Clerk

the amending of the ordinance for personnel policies and procedures. Our first public hearing will be held on November 28, 2017.

Mayor Austin presented to Mayor and Council the intergovernmental agreement for law enforcement between the City of Demorest and the Hospital Authority. The City will provide and maintain law enforcement services for the Hospital Authority. We would provide law enforcement seven days a week with a full-time police officer 7:00 P.M. to 7 A.M. We would have a permanent office at Habersham Medical Center. They will begin the position on November 13, 2017. There will be also a part time officer that will be paid by the hospital but under the City Police Chief. Councilman Harkness made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Law Enforcement with the Hospital Authority and a second was received by Councilman Popham. (3-0)

City Manager Shead spoke in reference to the need to purchase three service trucks. We will trade in four existing trucks:

2010 Ford F150 – VIN# 1FTMF1CW7AKA32570 – Trade in value - \$4000  
2010 Ford F150 – VIN# 1FTMF1CW0AKA59884 – Trade in value - \$4000  
2012 Chevy Silverado 1500 – VIN #1GCNCPEX1C2107456 – Trade in value \$4500  
2007 Ford F150 – VIN# 1FTRF14W07NA86272 – Trade in value - \$2500

To purchase 3 service trucks 2018 4x2 regular cap

Also, we will keep the 2008 Ford F-450 and remove the utility bed and replace it with the chipper truck bed for \$2,000 and save the cost of purchasing a new truck \$37,000. We will need to surplus the bed off of the 2008 Ford F450 and the 1993 chipper truck. We will keep the existing chipper.

Councilman Moore asked if it would be possible to sell the trucks out right. It was agreed to put the four trucks on govdeals for a minimum of three days.

City Manager Shead went over the installation of power in the park. We will run a 400 amp main breaker and run a 200 amp to the upper end of the park and a 200 amp to the lower end of the park. The cost will be \$37,000. Councilman Harkness made a motion to install power in the park and give the City Manager the authority to award the bid up to \$37,000.00. A second was received by Councilman Popham. (3-0)

Councilman Moore made a motion to enter into executive session for pending litigation. A second was received by Councilman Popham. (3-0) 7:38 PM

Councilman Popham made a motion to enter into open session. A second was received by Councilman Moore. (3-0)

There was no action taken at this time.

Councilman Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting and a second was received by Councilman Popham. (3-0) 8:07 PM

Marlena I Sosebee  
City Clerk