

TOWN OF HOMER      PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Sept. 13,2022    5:30PM

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Present were: Mayor Doug Cheek, Cliff Hill, James Dumas, Jerry Payne (zoom)

Public hearing was called to order by Mayor Doug Cheek at 5:30 p.m. He stated that the public hearing was to discuss the possibility of a tax levy of 2 mils.

Mayor Cheek discussed the deficits and how the town is having to use reserve funds to balance the budget.

Mayor Cheek asked those who wanted to speak in favor of or against the tax levy to come to the podium and state their name and address. He called them to speak in the order in which they signed up on the sign in sheet.

Linda Steagall, resident of 272 Charity Road, stated that her road is almost impassable and that animal control is needed in the county. She stated that she is not receiving needed services from Banks County. She was informed that she is not a resident of the Town of Homer and that the town tax levy would not affect her in any way.

Robert Goodwin, resident of 112 Applewood Way, stated that he is not opposed to the tax levy but he does not think this is a good time to increase the millage rate.

Gary Clark, resident of 139 Sullivan Drive, stated that he understands that the town is operating with reserve funds but he would like to be informed of what the taxes will be used for. He stated that he thinks the timing is wrong for the tax levy.

Mary Hill Towns, resident, stated that she is opposed to the tax increase. She asked why there has to be an attorney present at all of the town meetings. She also asked if the town collects building permit fees.

Roger Goodwin, resident of 116 Wild Turkey Pass, stated that he is opposed to the tax increase. He would like to have clear and essential information on what citizens will get for the tax.

Brad Day, resident of Homer, stated that he is concerned about people in the community who are on a fixed income and that the tax increase will be a burden on the elderly. He stated that if the tax levy passes there should be an exception for people on fixed incomes.

**REGULAR MEETING**

*The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Cheek.*

Present were James Dumas, Sandra Garrison, Cliff Hill & Jerry Payne (zoom)

The invocation was given by James Dumas.

The pledge to the flag was led by Mayor Doug Cheek.

**Approve Certificate of distribution local option sales tax 5.625%**

Town attorney, David Syfan, discussed the local option sales tax certificate that needs to be approved. James Dumas made the motion to enter into the agreement with Banks County regarding the local option sales tax 5.625%. Motion was seconded by Jerry Payne and approved. (5-0)

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**Modification of loan resolution**

Mr. Syfan discussed the loan modification documents that need to be approved and signed if the mayor and council want to go ahead with the 4<sup>th</sup> loan modification. The loan was for new meters, new well, etc. The loan agreement is to approve additional loans with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> modification to the loan agreement. Loan amount will be \$750,000.00 after the 4<sup>th</sup> modification. Motion was made by James Dumas to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> loan modification to the promissory note and to authorize the clerk and mayor to sign the loan agreement. Motion was seconded by Cliff Hill and approved. (5-0)

**Subdivision Regulations**

Cliff Hill stated that the asphalt depth needs to be 10" and 4" in both places on page 42. Carol Ayers will make sure that this information gets to Adam Hazell so it can be changed in the new subdivision regulations. Sandra Garrison made the motion to approve the subdivision regulations pending the above mentioned corrections being made. Motion was seconded by Jerry Payne and approved. (5-0)

**Set millage rate**

Cliff Hill made the motion not to implement property taxes at this time. Motion was seconded by Sandra Garrison and approved. (5-0)  
Jerry Payne commented that there will be no choice in the future regarding property taxes. James Dumas stated that he valued all of the citizens comments made in the public hearing.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Tracey King