

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2022

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at the Whigham City Council Chambers with Mayor Trey Gainous presiding. Gainous called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and asked Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers to open the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Those present were: Mayor Trey Gainous, Jim Sellers, Robert Porter, Joel Singletary, Andrew Walden, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn, Police Chief Tony Black, and City Clerk Rachel Jenson.

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Robert Porter to adopt the agenda. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes Adoption

A motion was made by Jim Sellers to adopt the minutes from the June meeting. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

2022/2023 Budget: Mayor Gainous told the Council a second public hearing for the 22/23 budget would take place on this evening and then, if no objections, the Council could vote to approve the budget. Gainous explained that there would be a proposal to increase the water rates to generate more revenue since the electric rates were steep already and the water revenues were barely breaking even against the used consumption. Councilman Porter inquired about the Fire Department's request for the new truck and it's line item. Gainous explained he showed the profit that will be received from the old truck being sold in the revenue area and added a line item to show where the money needed to purchase would be coming from the MEAG short term portfolio. **With no other objections for the budget, Jim Sellers made a motion to accept the water rates as proposed: "bundle customers" (customers who have both electric and water services) will have a minimum water bill of \$20.00 and "non-bundle customers" (customers outside the city limits with water service only) will have a minimum water bill of \$25.00. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the water rate increase. Motion carried.**

In regards to the budget, Jim Sellers made a motion to accept the budget as proposed for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Reports

City Hall: Mayor Gainous asked the City Clerk to give the City Hall report. City Clerk Jenson informed the Council of the concerns and issues she and Assistant Clerk Taylor Lambert had been experiencing with the billing software. She stated they had had no official training, could not do billing by themselves, had no work orders to give the utilities department and she and the Assistant Clerk felt like the City was losing revenue due to bills going out late and late fees not being applied for 3 months. Jenson reported a company recommended by NightHawk meters, PCS, had given them a quote for billing service, which was passed to all Councilmembers. Mayor Gainous told the Council that this company was more money