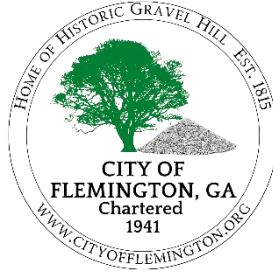


*"Preserving Our Heritage,
Shaping Our Future"*

Historic Home of Gravel Hill
Est. 1815

Paul Hawkins,
MAYOR



City Hall
156 Old Sunbury Rd.
Flemington, GA 31313

912.877.3223
cityhall@cityofflemington.org

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
Millage Rate Public Hearing #2
December 5th, 2024 AT 4 p.m.
FLEMINGTON CITY HALL ♦ 156 OLD SUNBURY RD

Present at City Hall: Mayor Paul Hawkins
Mayor Pro Tem ("MPT") David Edwards
Councilwoman Rene' Harwell
Councilwoman Gail Evans (entered @ 4:06 p.m.)
Councilman Hasit Patel
Councilwoman Leigh Smiley
Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk
LT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Phone: None

Absent: Councilman Larry Logan
Craig Stafford, City Attorney

1. The special called Public Hearing of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Thursday, December 5th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Room at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Mayor Hawkins welcomed all attendees.
3. MPT Edwards provided a comprehensive introduction and overview of the city's history, current projects, and future initiatives.
4. Citizens opposed to the proposed millage rate conveyed the following comments:
 - Question to the Mayor regarding his perspective on the four (4) acres of land at McLarry's Curve vs. the nine (9) acres located across from City Hall.
 - Question regarding building a new City Hall in the nine (9) acres of land across the street from the current City Hall
 - Question about the fiscal responsibility of the city's purchase of four (4) acres of land in McLarry's Curve for \$975,000.
5. Citizens neutral or in support of the proposed millage rate conveyed the following comments:
 - Understanding that the proposed millage rate will be applied to both homeowners and businesses.
 - There is a recognition of the necessity for the millage rate.
6. The Council addressed the attending citizens, clarifying that the proposed millage rate is intended to fund city-provided services rather than support the Downtown Development Authority or the downtown district. They outlined the unique

challenges faced by Flemington concerning grant funding and the financial resources required for infrastructure, roads, and sidewalks. Citizens were urged to complete their Census forms.

It was specified that a home with a fair market value of \$100,000 would incur approximately \$140 in taxes under the proposed 3.514% millage rate, which will appear as a separate line item on property tax bills rather than being applied to the entire amount. The Council emphasized that while growth is inevitable, they advocate for smart growth that maintains the City's integrity through design standards. Regarding the nine acres across the street, they indicated that the land could either be sold, developed, or turned into a recreation area/park.

7. Mayor Hawkins responded to the citizen's inquiry comparing the land in the Curve to that across from City Hall, expressing his opposition to the purchase of the land in the Curve. He noted that the property across from City Hall is already owned by the City and has infrastructure, advocating for its development in the best interest of the residents of the City.
8. *MPT Edwards made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and the public hearing adjourned at 4:47 p.m.*