

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2022**

Mayor Craig Guyton opened the Special Called Meeting immediately following the City Council Work Session meeting that was held at 7:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Set 2022 Euharlee Millage Rate - Mayor Craig Guyton

Mayor Craig Guyton said they have discussed the millage rate and what would be their pleasure. Council Member David Duncan said he would like to go with the two mills and start with two mills. Council Member Greg Free said that had good discussion about the future, and they all know that is what they are really planning for 5 years to 10 years from now, and a lot of that was said in the last meeting. It was some good discussion, and he is for setting the city up for success. Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to set the millage rate at net two mills effective September 1, 2022. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion passed with four in favor and one abstention. Mr. Stephens said for the record, per the city Charter an abstention is the equivalent of a yes vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked to make a comment for the record. In the last meeting they did something that was very citizen friendly. They put in the policy that if the fund balance were to reach two million, they would have a roll back. He felt it was necessary to repeat.

Approve LOST Distribution Certificate - Mayor Craig Guyton

Mayor Craig Guyton stated that once every 10 years the County Commissioner and the Mayors of each municipality meet to discuss and negotiate the percentage that each county will receive of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), and the same percentage applies to the Special Option Local Sales Tax (SPLOST). Currently, the city of Euharlee for the last 10 years received 4.13%. For the next 10 years the city of Euharlee the city will be allotted 3.85%. A couple of the other cities got more because of the revenue they impact and produce. This is the first time they did not go straight by population which means they city is a little bit lower than what the population would stipulate. It was a tough negotiation, but it worked out well for everybody in the county. Approval is needed for the mayor to sign the document at 3.85%

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the 3.85% LOST distribution. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion.

Council Member Joe Turner asked if they could argue anymore. Mayor Guyton shared it would not do any good. He shared with the council an interesting fact. After the first meeting of the LOST negotiation, the municipalities and the county have two months to come to an agreement. If they do not, it goes to arbitration. In arbitration any one of the eight criteria could work well for you or against you. You do not know how a judge would review the eight criteria. If they do not have an agreement by December 31st, nobody gets anything. You are correct, it would not do any good to go back to say they do not accept.

Council Member Greg Free asked what the percentage reduction equated to in dollar value. Mr. Stephens said based on the figures that were used in the negotiation which encompassed a 3% increase for the following year, it would equate to \$92,000 less than what they would have received at 4.2% for just next year.

Council Member Greg Free said, to know what that number is, the millage will help them re-coupe some of that and still plan for the future. He would imagine as these negotiations take place 10-years from now, if they are looking for a little bit more favorable upon the revenue that is driven by the city, he could imagine that it could typically be more because cities will grow within the counties.

Mr. Stephens said they need to be continually seeking diversified revenue streams. He is proud of the fact that they are close to putting out to bid for the obstruction of fifteen full new sites at Frankie Harris Park and other items they will be discussing and have discussed in the past. He does not know if there will be modifications to the law with this significant change, but the mayor really represented Euharlee well and he was proud to be sitting next to him. The 3.85% he thinks is effective for Euharlee with all the facts that were considered. They certainly have a local statesman representing, Mayor Guyton did a tremendous job. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

There were no public comments.

Council Member Greg Free motioned to adjourn. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.