

**City Council Meeting
August 18, 2008**



The special called meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday,
August 18, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall

Members Present: Edenfield, Stroud, Parker, Collins, Stafford & Faulkner,

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Councilperson Parker

Councilperson Parker stated that under the Fire Department section the Grant from Mill Creek was \$5000.00 not \$500.00 and requested a change. No objections
Motion was made to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting as amended.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner Pass 6-0

Agenda Items

Mayor Schwabe ask Administrator Lawson to present the proposed 2009 budget. Adm. Lawson stated the budget was as suggest by each department head and could be adopted holding the current millage rate. He also presented the Water and Waste Water budget and stated it could also be adopted without a rate increase. Council then discussed current items in the budget but made no changes. Motion was made to adopt the 2009 budget as presented with no millage increase and water rate increase.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud Pass 6-0

Administrator Lawson then explained to council that State of Georgia Governor Sonny Purdue had call for a canceling of the homestead exemption from the local taxes. This would cause the homeowner to have to pay this portion. Council asked if GMA had a recommendation and Adm. Lawson read the two recommendation from GMA as follows:

1. Provide the full homestead tax relief credit. While it is possible that the General Assembly may not be able to fund this program, the clear intent as of today is that the program will continue to be funded for the current fiscal year. In the event that the program is not fully funded, cities may want to consider sending our a second bill to homeowners to recover the unreimbursed amount.

2. Do not provide the homestead tax relief credit but bill for the full amount of the tax liability. Be aware that this option will be viewed as a tax increase and that in the event that the General Assembly is able to continue HTRG funding, your city will not receive the grant and you will not be able to pass the credit on to your taxpayers after the fact.

Council then decided that option #1 was the best choice and a motion was made to go with option one and make clear statement on the tax bills that a second bill may have to be sent if the Governor does not allow the tax credit from the state.

Motion: by Stroud Seconded: by Stafford Pass 6-0

Administrator Lawson then informed council because the City of Swainsboro was in the coastal area as defined by the Environment Protection Agency the city was having to reapply for a water extraction permit. Included in this permit was a requirement to adopt an acceding water rate. At the present time the city bills the same rate for all usage up to 100,000 gallons. The new rate would not increase any customers using less than 2000 gallons. The minimum rate would stay the same. In order to meet EPD's requirements there will be a small step scale that would increase as the usage goes up. Council asked if they were any other alterative. Adm. Lawson explained that we have to adopt this in order to receive our new withdrawal permit. Motion was made to adopt this new rate chart.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stroud Pass 6-0

Mayor Schwabe announced that the city would be receiving a \$500,000 grant in the form of a Community Block Grant to improve the infrastructure of the sewage system in the Lucky St. and Church St. areas.

Council Adjourned

Submitted: *Al L Lawson* , City Administrator