

Special Called Meeting Minutes – Final MAYOR AND COUNCIL



Derek Norton, Mayor
Tim Gould, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 6)
Glenn Pickens (Ward 1)
Latonia P. Hines (Ward 2)
Travis Lindley (Ward 3)
Charles "Corkey" Welch (Ward 4)
Susan Wilkinson (Ward 5)
Kathy Young (Ward 7)

Smyrna Community Center
Oak Room
200 Village Green Cir SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

City Attorney Scott Cochran
City Administrator Joseph Bennett
City Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

**August 03, 2023
10:00 AM**

1. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould, Councilmember Kathy Young

Also Present: 1 – Scott Cochran

Staff Present: 3 – Joe Bennett, Jill Head, Mike Hickenbottom, and Kristin Robinson

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Latonia P. Hines

2. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the August 3, 2023 Special Called City Council meeting held at the Smyrna Community Center in the Oak Room at 10:00 AM.

3. Formal Business

A. **2023-148** Public Hearing for the 2023 Millage rate; there will be no vote on this item. ***Citywide***

Mayor Derek Norton opened the public hearing.

Ken Hymes, 151 Ennisbrook Drive, stated that he was speaking to request that Council not increase the millage rate. He explained that people are already feeling financial pressure because of inflation and the rise in property values.

Mayor Norton explained that the current millage rate set at 8.99 has been in place since 2006. The Council had no plan to raise it. Residents with homestead exemption will see no increase in their property taxes. Mayor Norton further explained that the state requires that despite the City maintaining the current rate at 8.99 for homestead properties, if the tax digest grows, it has to be posted as a tax increase. Businesses will have an increase, but homestead properties will not. The confusing wording is a requirement by the state

legislature, but Mayor Norton reiterated that there will be no tax increase for those with a homestead exemption in the City of Smyrna.

Mayor Norton closed the public hearing.

4. Public Comment

5. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the August 3, 2023 Special Called City Council meeting at 10:03 AM.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for convenience of persons with disabilities.

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN O.C.G.A. 50-14-3:
The City of Smyrna website – www.smyrnaga.gov
City Hall, 2800 King Street SE, Notice Boards