

The City of Hamilton  
210 Walton Street  
P.O. Box 112  
Hamilton, Georgia 31811  
706-628-5321 Fax 706-628-9520  
**August 12, 2024**

Open session by Mayor Patrick Whearley  
Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Patrick Whearley  
Invocation by Councilor Greg Allen

Approval of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes. Councilor Fields made a motion to approve the minutes as they are presented. Councilor Allen seconded. Vote unanimous. Councilor Howard was absent.

**Water/Sewer Report** – Ben reported a single water leak on Friendship Street. 121 Water is down to 146 unknown service connections with 20 more unentered. We have found five galvanized lines so far. This usually indicates something that needs to be replaced on our side, so we will probably do some service lines to correct this. That should not be too expensive. Pine Mountain allowed us to use their jettors to help us out. The Dump truck is down due to the hydraulics.

**Fire Report** – Chief Oliver reported 19 service calls, most false alarms, and one structure fire. Wheels of Fire is a no-go and is being absorbed by another entity.

**Streets/Maintenance Report** – Terrance reported on the paving, and let the council know his worker school kids have gone back to school.

**Police Report** – Hamilton celebrated the National Night Out with 50 to 75 first responders, and others from the community. The event was held in Sweet Bay, thank you Sweet Bay's HOA. A report was given on Trooper Shiver returning home from heart surgery. The 2024-2025 School year has begun. A sincere thank you to the City Clerk Tonia Crittenden and Deputy Clerk Aaliyah Brawner for their professionalism. The email issue is in the process of being corrected.

**Planning/Zoning Report** - No comments

**City Report** – Rhett Wade spoke on the software migration. He gave an update on Young Lane – the road has faulted already. He spoke on the impact of the hurricane on Hamilton and the Georgia Rural Water Association is coming to see what help they can give. He let the Council know that it is budget time and asked for recommendations from the Council for things they may be interested in.

**Old Business:**

Mayor Whearley told the Council that we had three public hearings on keeping the millage rate the same with no rollback from the County with no issues brought forth. Councilor Fields motioned to keep the millage rate at 7.025 for the 2024 property taxes. The question was asked why we should not take the rollback. Mr. Wade talked about legislation capping assessments and looking at future changes. Mayor Whearley seconded the motion, and the motion passed with Councilor Allen opposed.

Mayor Whearley made a motion to table the rezoning request until the September 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting due to two Councilors that had not been in attendance at the public hearings. This would allow the Councilors to listen to the tape and hear the views of the general public before making a decision. Councilor Fields seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Council was presented with a draft of the Charter with the recommendation to adopt by the City Attorney. A copy is in City Hall for citizens to review. The next City Council meeting, September 9<sup>th</sup>, will be the first public hearing for the Charter changes.

No new business.

Housekeeping:

Tonia and Rhett will be working on the budget this week and Diane will be here on Tuesday and Thursday to help out.

The grand opening of the new dental office will be at 6 pm on August 15<sup>th</sup> with the ribbon cutting at 6:30 pm.

The software migration is underway.

Planning and Zoning will meet on August 27<sup>th</sup> and they have one item on the agenda, an awning that faces Highway 27.

There were no additional comments from the Councilors.

Councilor Fields made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Allen and passed unanimously.

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Mayor Patrick Whearley

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Mayor Pro-Tem Alvin Howard

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Councilor Greg Allen

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Councilor Nancy Wall

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City Clerk Tonia Crittenden

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Councilor William Fields