

**CITY OF BARNESVILLE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**July 5, 2022**

Council met at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, in the Courtroom at 100 Mill Street in Barnesville, Georgia.

Mayor Peter L. Banks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Councilmember Christopher Hightower opened the meeting with prayer.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Peter L. Banks  
Mayor Pro Tem Sammie D. Shropshire, Jr.  
Councilmember Christopher Hightower  
Councilmember Bill Claxton  
Councilmember Joseph Sims  
Councilmember Cecil D. McDaniel, Sr.

**STAFF PRESENT**

City Manager Timothy T. Turner  
City Clerk Tammy T. Folson  
Chief of Police Craig Cooper

**ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL**

Mayor Banks stated the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comments on the following proposed miscellaneous rate changes.

Garbage/Recycle (One Bin) – Residential  
Garbage/Recycle (One Bin) – Commercial  
Leaves/Yard Debris and Junk Collection  
Meter Deposits - Residential  
Water & Sewer Capacity Recovery Fees  
Water Capacity Recovery Fees for Rural Water System (RUS)

Mayor Banks called for public comments. There were none. Only one person from the public was present at this time.

Councilmember Hightower asked for clarification on the reason for the fee increases and when our contract expires with the contractor. He said it's his understanding it's because the City currently charges its customers less than what our contractor charges us for the services. City Manager Turner confirmed the City is losing money because we are charged more by the contractor than the customers are paying and he reported the contract expires in September. Councilmember Hightower expressed concern about increasing these rates now to recover the shortage because the rates may have to be adjusted again in the new budget.

City Manager Turner gave the first reading of Ordinance No. 589. He stated he's asking for the increases to just break even. Councilmember Hightower stated since there is a potential to negotiate later with the contractor and these rates may go up, he'd like to hold off on increasing the first three fees now.

Mr. Willie Williams who lives at 306 Westchester Drive voiced his concerns about the inconsistencies in the leaves and trash pickup and he asked about the size that can be picked up. City Manager Turner explained only three cubic yards or one scoop can be picked up at a time. Mr. Williams reported there's a hole in his yard from where they've picked up. City Manager Turner said he'd get it filled.

Mayor Banks noted we need to make sure people understand the policy. Councilmember Hightower added we need to educate our people and improve our services before we increase them.

Mr. Charles Harp reported a problem with someone piling boxes up on Westchester Drive that is making the neighborhood look bad. He said Councilmember Hightower had put up a sign, but they still didn't stop dumping them.

After further discussion by the Council on the proposed miscellaneous rate changes, Mayor Banks and City Manager Turner stated they doubted the rates would have to be increased later if they are done now. Councilmember Hightower stated he's heard concerns from his constituents about the quality of the services and he didn't know how the residents were going to feel about these changes being made now. He reminded the Council it's almost time to renegotiate the contract, set a new budget, we are still in a pandemic, and people are not working.

Mr. Richard Miller asked if he could get a study of the terrain and underground water for Westchester Drive. City Manager Turner said he would get with our engineers.

Mrs. April Scott suggested the City send out changes to policies in the bills. She said she wanted to make sure she's putting out her debris in a timely manner. City Manager Turner reported everything should be picked up on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Mr. James Haygood expressed his concern about speeding on Westchester Drive and said it also needed to be paved. City Manager Turner reported Westchester Drive was on the list to be paved, but after two requests for bids were advertised, no bids were received. He further reported the City will be putting two LMIG Grants together for paving.

After no further business, Council adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Attached is a list of those present at the meeting.

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Peter L. Banks, Mayor

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Tammy T. Folsom, City Clerk

Clerk's Notes: There were no special needs required.