

City of Lumpkin
552 MLK Jr. Dr. Lumpkin, GA 31815

CALLED MEETING

Thursday, January 2, 2025

7:30 p.m.

The mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone said a pledge to the flag.

The clerk called the roll. All were present except Councilwoman House, Councilman Thomas, and Councilwoman Mallory.

Councilwoman Mallory arrived at 7:39 p.m.

House Bill 581 w/ Attorney Coleman

Attorney Coleman handed out information concerning House Bill 581. He informed the council that the city probably had one of the most significant decisions to make with this bill. First, it does not affect the home exemption that is currently in effect. If your property was worth \$100,000.00 and the following year it was worth 120,000.00, it would only be assessed at the \$100,000.00 value until the property was sold. This is a bill that is done for suburban Atlanta. They have property sold every day. The city has the option to opt out of the bill, but it must be done and turned in to the Secretary of State before March 1. Then, he discussed the advantages and disadvantages it would have for the city. The bill is not very well done. The house only put FLOST funds to help relieve the tax relief. It could be from half a cent to one cent for five years. It can't be used to buy police cars or equipment. It will be only for five years. If the city does not opt-out, this homestead exemption will be forever. The city will lose the value of the property taxes. A tax break is not really a break.

Councilman Thomas arrived at 7:52 p.m.

It will shift more taxes to businesses, agricultural land, or rental property. There would have to be an increase in taxes – it would have to go up in the mileage rate. In rural Georgia most of the property is rental homes. That would not be included in this bill. It is unfair to make you choose in this two-month span. It took effect yesterday, January 1, 2025. If the city decides to opt-out, the city has to hold three public hearings and advertise the date of the hearings. Are there any questions so far? Mayor – It does not affect the current homestead exemption that is in effect. Clerk – asked if the city is already at its highest mileage rate and how it would affect the funds. Attorney Coleman – It would affect you very badly because you could not recover in your tax digest from the taxes that will be lost with this bill. The schools cannot receive the FLOST funds; only the cities and counties can. I have been to ten different meetings concerning this matter, and most of the rural cities and counties are going to opt-out. I can't see how the city would recover from the dollar amount lost on this bill with the sale taxes. It has to be every city & county to stay to receive the

FLOST tax. If any opt-out, there will be no FLOST tax. It would end up increasing property taxes. Taxes do not disappear. They only shift to all other property types – industrial, agriculture, businesses, and rental properties. It will have an enormous impact on revenue in the later years. The mayor asked if there were any questions for Attorney Coleman. Councilwoman Cullefer, do we need to make a decision? Attorney Coleman stated that they could decide to go ahead with the hearings. The meetings do not bind you to opt out or in. When the council passes the Resolution, it will determine if the city opts out or opts in. Councilwoman Mallory – stated that you only have to have the meetings if you opt out. Attorney Coleman – The city is not committed until they pass the Resolution.

Motion by B. Cullefer
Second by N. Seay

To go ahead and schedule the three
public hearings.

(5-0)

The one thing that needs to be expressed is that it does not do away or change the first home exemption. It would be a second exemption that would freeze the property value until the home is sold. The city or county would have to increase the property taxes to recover from the revenue lost from this bill. The City of Lumpkin has the highest property tax, so there is no way the city could recover the funds lost. If any of the cities or counties choose to opt out, no one can collect the FLOST revenue. I will be available to talk to any of you at any time.

Clerk: I informed the council that if the city does not opt-out, there will be no way to recover the revenue. This city cannot increase the mileage rate; it is at the highest it can go.

Motion by B. Cullefer
Second by F. Brown

To adjourn

(5-0)

Jimmy Babb

Mayor Jimmy Babb Date: January 14, 2025

[Signature]

Hessie Brown

[Signature]

Billie Mader

Natzy Hance

Barbara Cullefer

Anne Holloway
Anne Holloway, City Clerk

City of Lumpkin
552 MLK Jr. Dr. Lumpkin, GA 31815
Tuesday, January 14, 2025
6:00 p.m.

The mayor called the meeting to order.

All said the Pledge to the Flag.

The clerk called the roll. All were present.

The mayor requested the agenda be approved. Councilwoman Cullefer asked that it be amended to add a Christmas Tree.

Motion by – B. Cullefer

Second by – D. Thomas

To approve the agenda. Amend to add Christmas Tree.

6/0

The mayor requested approval of the minutes for Dec. 10, Dec. 17th & Jan. 2nd.

Motion by B. Cullefer

Second by F. Brown

To approve the minutes for December 10th, 17, and January 2, 2025.

6/0

The mayor asked for approval of the December Financial Reports.

Motion by B. Cullefer

Second by M. House

To approve the December Financial Reports

6/0

Public Appearances:

There was no public appearance

Reports from Dept. Heads:

Clerk A. Holloway informed the mayor and council members that her update was in their folders. She asked if anyone had any questions. The audit should be completed soon. Councilwoman Mallory requested that the minutes be updated on the city website. She inquired about the CDBG engineer and the amounts for SPLOST 2025 and asked that a copy be sent to her. The clerk informed the council members about the upcoming HB 581 public hearing. She also mentioned that there were already two street lights on Main Street. She told the council about changing Councilwoman Cullefer to Councilman Thomas to represent the city at the monthly meetings. Councilwoman Mallory stated that she had complaints from residents about getting 95 North Street cleaned up.

Public Supervisor—M. Robinson's update was in their folders. He informed the council about the leak that had to be fixed and stated that the crew had cleaned up in Skyline. He has hired one part-time and one full-time employee. They are working out well. Chris, Anne, and I have been working on changing to different chemicals.

Chief of Police—M. Holloway's update was in the folders. The chief informed the council that three patrol cars needed to be repaired for \$1500.00. The gentleman asked if the city would be interested in the lodge on the corner. Yes, get the information and let us know.

Motion by M. House	To allow the Chief to get the patrol cars fixed.
Second by D. Thomas	6/0

Fire Chief – G. Stewart absent

New Business:

CDBG 2025 – Engineer - There were two packages submitted for the engineer.

Motion by B. Cullefer	To accept Stillwater Engineer to work on the
Second by F. Brown	CDBG grant.
	6/0

The mayor informed the council about leasing the Old Cleaner Building that the city owns. Mr. C. Torresson is interested in opening a pizza shop at the location. He is willing to do all the repairs and would like the city to install the air and heat unit. A draft of the lease is in councilmembers folders. The clerk read the draft of the lease agreement to the council.

Motion by F. Brown	To accept the lease of the city building to C.
Second by B. Cullefer	Torresson.
	6/0

Motion by M. House	For the city to install an air and heat unit in the
Second by F. Brown	corner building next to City Hall.
	6/0

Old Business:

Public Workers – To hire another full-time employee. Open the application back up.

Christmas Bonus – given to the city workers by Councilman Thomas.

Motion by M. House	To accept the Christmas bonus for the city
Second by B. Cullefer, workers from Councilman Thomas.	He will pay
	with the monthly stifling.

Christmas Tree –

Motion by B. Cullefer	To purchase the 21' Christman Tree.
Second by N. Seay	6/0

Council Input:

M. House said that she appreciates the workers fixing the water leaks on MLK Jr. Drive.

D. Thomas we need to contact the crew leader to determine the fiber optic depth. The last leak was 8' deep, and the other was 4'. We need to find the standard depth of installing the fiber optic. At the CCA 500 on Broad Street, the employees must slow down. The Chief informed the council that several speeding tickets had been written.

N. Seay – Nothing
B. Cullefer – Nothing
B. Mallory – Nothing
F. Brown – Inquired about the dates for the HB 581 Bill.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjourn

Motion by B. Cullefer
Second by D. Thomas

To adjourn
6/0

Jimmy Babb

Mayor Jimmy Babb

Date: 2-11-25

Al Fry

Billy Mallory

Mary Houser

Hessie Brown

Barbara Cullefer

Anne Holloway, City Clerk