

The on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. the council meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Walker. At roll call all council members were present. It was determined a quorum did exist.

The first item was to approve the Consent Agenda. Council member Watts motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The next item was approval of the Agenda. Council member Watts motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The first item on the Agenda was H. B. 581 Floating Homestead Exemption. In this bill, appraised value is changed every 3 years, which is good for a hot market like Atlanta, but not for Gay. This could tax homeowner out of their homes.

Meriweather County is one of a few counties that has a flexible frozen property tax system. When you buy a home or property the taxable amount is frozen at the amount you paid, even as the appraised value goes up, the amount you pay taxes on is frozen in the year you purchased. If you build a structure or addition the appraisal is unlocked and re-appraised. If you sell, the new owner pays the new appraised price.

The Town of Gay intends to opt out of the new system and must complete a very precise set of instructions by March 1. This includes 3 public hearings, with precisely worded and sized newspaper advertisements.

After discussion it was decided to hold two public hearings on January 31, one at 10:00 a.m. and one at 6:00 p.m., and the third one on February 10 at 6:00 p.m. Newspaper ads will be published January 23<sup>rd</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

After discussion, council member Watts motioned to begin the necessary steps to be sure everything is done in a timely manner. Council member Pritchett seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.

The next item on the Agenda was budgets for FY 2025/2026. After going over the items and making required changes, it was determined a public hearing for the budgets will be held on January 31, 2025 at approximately 6:30, or when the H. B. 581 hearing is completed. It is expected the vote on the budgets will be at the next regularly scheduled council meeting, scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2025.

The last item on the Agenda was financial documents. After discussion, council member Askvig motioned to accept the documents, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

As there was no more business to discuss, council member Keith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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Christopher J. Walker – Mayor

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Sharon Richmond – Clerk

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