



MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
 February 10, 2025 – 12:00 PM



Council Chambers, 50 Booster Field Drive, Whitesburg, Georgia 30185

Elected Officials Present

Mayor, Amy Williford (Via Phone)
 Councilmember, Lucy Gamble
 Councilmember, Donna Whitley
 Councilmember, Kim Arnell

City Staff Present

Assistant City Clerk, Wendy Morris

The Mayor and City Council met for a Public Hearing on February 10, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amy Williford at 12:01 pm.

I. Invocation was led by Councilmember Kim Arnell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Lucy Gamble.

II. Citizen Comments & Discussion On Agenda Items:

- Kathryn Barber: Asked for an explanation of HB581
- Councilmember Whitley: Explained that if the city opts out then nothing changes. If the city opts in then current homeowners will only get an increase based off the inflation rate and not what the county assesses the property. If we opt in, the city will lose money and in that case the city would have to make up the loss revenue and raise millage rates if necessary.
- Kathryn Barber: If the city opts in and a property owner builds a new home, will they qualify?
- Councilmember Whitley: The homeowner will still qualify for homestead exemption but will not qualify for HB581 until the county assesses their property. Once that is completed then the homeowner will qualify 1 year after the assessment.
- Councilmember Gamble: Will HB581 affect the schools?
- Councilmember Whitley: No, the schools have opted out of HB581.
- Kathryn Barber: As a homeowner she would like the city to opt in HB581.

III. Business Session:

The purpose of these hearings is to gather public input regarding the City's intent to opt out of statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption.

IV. Citizen Comments: (Please state name & address; speaking limited to 3 minutes)

No citizens were in attendance

V. Mayor/ Council/ City Staff comments

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Gamble made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 p.m., Second By: Councilmember Arnell, Motion Approved with No Objections.

Amy R. Williford, Mayor

ATTEST: Clerk