

**Minutes of the
The City of Darien Public Hearing
October 7, 2025
David Bluestein Meeting Room, City Hall**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hugh “Bubba” Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Hugh “Bubba” Hodge, Councilmember William Collins, Councilmember Jeff Ragsdale, and Councilmember Russ Quarterman.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Pro-tem Griffin Lotson

STAFF PRESENT: City Clerk Priscilla Taylor, City Manager Holden Osburn, and City Attorney Sam Oliver

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Councilmember Ragsdale

Second: Councilmember Quarterman

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion of Millage Rate

City Manager Holden Osburn presented a power point explaining the City will require an increase in property taxes. This increase will result in a millage rate of 3.100 mills, an increase of 0.143 mills over the rollback rate. The percentage tax increase that the city is required, under 48-5-32.1, to advertise for is a 4.84 increase.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Question – Is there no budget sheet showing what salary increases have been?

Answer – There has not been any increased salaries based off this millage rate increase.

Question – In the paper it was mentioned that healthcare cost was going up. How much is the cost increasing and have you bid this out to other vendors?

Answer – We do bid this cost out. This opens again at the end of this month for reevaluation. We will not know the actual hard numbers of the increase at this time.

Question - So you will be bidding that out to other healthcare companies?

Answer - Yes.

Question - In 2022 when I first moved down here, I was advised the Police Department was abandoned and moved to the county?

Answer - Correct.

Question - The 1.3-million-dollar savings to the city, was that actual or just an idea number?

Answer - With the current contract with the Sheriff’s office there is an agreement to pay \$390,000.00 a year for that service.

Question - Has the city seen a lot of revenue losses because the Police Department is no longer in the city?

Answer - Yes, there was a significant drop, but we are beginning to see and increase.

Question - Does the county share revenue when they write a ticket in the city?

Answer - Yes.

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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mayor Hugh "Bubba" Hodge adjourned the meeting at 9:30pm.

Priscilla Taylor, City Clerk