

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON  
JANUARY 27, 2025 AT 10:00 AM IN THE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT  
111 NORTH IRWIN AVENUE, OCILLA, GA

Those present for the meeting are as follow:

Lisa Cook	Mayor Pro Tem
Patrice Manley	Council Member
Chris Paulk	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	City Clerk

Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Mayor Melvin D. Harper, II was absent.

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook called the meeting to order.

Council Member Chris Paulk gave the invocation.

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook stated the consensus for the Council is to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year as valorem homestead exemption for the City of Ocilla. It is her understanding the City will lose control over taxes if we don't. Also, opting out will also eliminate tax increases.

Council Member Chris Paulk stated the advertisement was misleading. He made the point that this is not about taking away the 40% access value ratio from homeowners. However, if we don't opt out, we will have to evaluate real property every year. Mr. Paulk stated we are choosing to opt out of the fluctuation of property taxes.

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook asked the public if anyone would like to comment.

Billy Leverette, 200 N. Beech Street, stated he didn't vote for HB 581 on the referendum because he was against it. Mr. Leverette stated he is concerned about how this will affect him personally because he is on a fixed income and the cost of everything is going up.

Ruth Burch, 811 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, stated she was present to get a better understanding of HB 581. She also stated that she prefers the City to make the decision for us to opt out.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Mayor Pro Tem all voting for the motion.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Cook, Mayor Pro Tem

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk