

**CALLED MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2012**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held a called meeting on Friday, December 21, 2012, at 5 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall to formally adopt the 2013 City Budget. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were: Mayor Barnett, council members Armour, Cullars, Harris, Rainey, Scarborough and Tutt. Also present were City Administrator Eskew, City Clerk Danner, City Financial Coordinator Bailey and City Attorney Fleming.

Visitors present were Sim Dill, Jr. and Charles Wagner.

Council member discussed several budget issues including tree trimming, electric rate increases and their effect on small businesses, collection of bad debts, economic development, spending, and employee raises and recommendations from UGA personnel study.

After discussion, on motion by Harris, second by Scarborough, council approved the 2013 budget on a vote of 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt. Mayor Barnett voted for budget approval breaking the tie vote. Budget includes: 7% electric rate increase (industrial rates will have a net \$0 increase), 7% water and sewer rate increases, rental of Public Works equipment at \$25,000, hydrant installation at \$45,000, employee cost of living increase at 1.75%, and tree trimming in the electric department at \$25,000. Savings from these cuts made to the budget will increase fund balance.

Council member Tutt stressed that he could not vote for approval of the budget due to the increase in electric rates which small business owners will see. Tutt also pointed out that focus should be on economic development and bringing large industrial customers to Washington.

On motion by Harris, second by Scarborough, meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

_____ MAYOR

_____ CLERK