

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lee Hearn, Chairman
Edward Gibbons, Vice Chairman
Eric K. Maxwell
Charles W. Oddo
Charles D. Rousseau



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney
Tameca P. Smith, County Clerk
Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES 2nd Public Hearing

September 7, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Lee Hearn called the Second Public Hearing to discuss the 2023 Property Tax Millage Rate to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Eric Maxwell was absent.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Hearn offered the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Vice Chairman Edward Gibbons moved to accept the agenda as written. Commissioner Charles Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Second Public Hearing to discuss the 2023 Property Tax Millage Rate.

Chief Finance Officer Sheryl Weinmann made a presentation to the Board. She began with an update, at the request of the Board, regarding the changes of the dates and times of the millage rate advertisements. She stated that there were some updates to the digest data, and she failed to meet the newspaper's publishing deadline to correct the information and dates in the previous ads. The legal organ, Fayette County News, only publishes once a week, which caused an issue meeting the advertisement deadlines. The Board was notified of the date and time changes via email and phone calls and the updated public notices were placed on the County's website. In the best interest of the citizens, it was decided to start the publishing process again to ensure compliance with the state law statute advertising requirements and open public hearings laws.

This hearing was advertised on Wednesday, August 30 and Wednesday, September 6, per state requirement.

Ms. Weinmann stated that the 2022 Digest was \$8.367 billion, the Growth real property increased by \$226 million, personal property had the highest percentage increase at 14.64% for \$85, 956,841. The motor vehicle had an increase for the first time at 0.12% due to the increase of the price of vehicles. There was also an increase in the "other" category. The total Growth increase was \$313,539,324.

Exemptions also increased and are reflected as negative because they reduced the digest. Ms. Weinmann stated that Reassessments of real property were increased by \$794,247,449, which showed a positive change in the digest of \$1.027 billion

or 12.28%. The 2023 Digest totaled \$9,394,779,107. She continued the presentation showing the change in taxable digest. She stated that it had increased from \$4.3 billion to \$9.3 billion since 2014. This was an increase of approximately 114%.

The proposed 2023 millage rate was 4.034, which was the same from 2022. Fire Services (3.070), Emergency Medical Services (0.500), and 911 Services (0.210) also remained the same. The taxable value was \$175,000, the millage rate remained the same at 4.034, which was an increase in the tax bill of approximately \$60/year or \$5/month. Although, the County had to advertise this as a tax increase, the millage rate remained the same. The digest increased over a billion dollars, so that was the reason for the increase in the tax bill. In the example given, if the home was valued at less than \$450,000, then the tax bill would be less than \$60/year.

Ms. Weinmann stated that although the 2023 millage rate numbers are not available, based on 2022 numbers, Fayette County remained one of the lowest counties for millage rates. Ms. Weinmann offered examples of a residential tax bill for a \$450,000 home value for unincorporated Fayette County, Town of Brooks, Peachtree City, City of Fayetteville and Town of Tyrone showing the distribution of each to Board of Education, County M&O, Fire District, EMS District and 911 District appropriately.

The millage rate in 2014 was 5.714. If the rate had remained the same, the county would have collected another \$81.5 million at this point. Ms. Weinmann stated that this could be looked at \$81.5 million that would have been used on projects or a \$81.5 million savings to the citizens.

The final public hearing and staff's request to adopt Resolution 2023-06 to levy the County property tax will be held on Thursday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m.

No one spoke in favor or in opposition.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Oddo moved to adjourn the 1st Public Hearing. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Tameca P. Smith, County Clerk

Lee Hearn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 14th day of September 2023. Attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.