

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CALLED SESSION - PUBLIC HEARING I

August 10, 2021

11:00 AM

Commissioners Present: Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews, Bobby Irons, Becky Langston. Commissioner Absent: Rob Grant. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Sherrail Jarrett (sitting in for County Clerk). Also in attendance: Wayne Morris, Tax Assessor; Vickie Jamerson, Tax Commissioner.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Zuerner called the Called Session to order.
2. **PUBLIC HEARING I: NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES.** Chairman Zuerner called the Public Hearing to order and said that the purpose of this meeting is regarding the notice of intent to increase the property tax and that this is the first of three hearings the County is required to hold regarding same; and that there will be two more Public Hearings before the millage rate is set. Chairman Zuerner said that the County has tentatively adopted a 2021 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 1.68 percent County Wide less West Point and by 0.52 percent in the West Point area; that this tentative increase will result in a millage of 9.38 mills, an increase of 0.155 mills in the County wide less West Point area and without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 9.225 mills; that the proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$225,000 is approximately \$13.95 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$150,000 is approximately \$9.30; that in the West Point area, this tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 5.628 mills, an increase of .029 mills and without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 5.626 mills; that the proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$175,000 is approximately \$2.03 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$1.16. Discussion included that if there has been no change in property values, there will not be an increase or decrease in property taxes.

Chairman Zuerner asked if anyone wished to comment on the millage rate.

George Clark, citizen who lives on GA Highway 103, appeared before the Board and made comments about the employee retirement system, complained about having to pay sales tax and ad valorem tax on his pontoon boat, and said he shouldn't have to continue to pay school taxes.

There being no further comments, Chairman Zuerner closed the Public Hearing.

3. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further discussion, Chairman Zuerner adjourned the meeting and reminded everyone that the next Public Hearing will be tonight at 6:30 PM.

Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk
(from notes taken by S.Jarrett)