

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CALLED SESSION**

July 24, 2019  
1:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Harry Lange, Andrew Zuerner. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Clint Chastain, Finance Officer; Wayne Morris, Chief Tax Appraiser; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Langston called the Called Session to order and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 2019 millage rate. She then turned the meeting over to Randy Dowling, County Manager, and Wayne Morris, Chief Tax Appraiser.

2. **MILLAGE RATE.** Discussion included three options regarding the 2019 Millage rate:

Option 1: Rollback is calculated at 8.577; if the Board decides to adopt the existing millage rate of 8.630 and not rollback, it would trigger three (3) public hearings to advertise a 0.62% tax increase. The 8.63 rate would generate \$11,118,276 in tax revenue at 100% collection rate or \$10,784,728 at the customary 97% collection rate, both of which are enough to fund the FY 2019-20 approved budget.

Option 2: If the Board decides to adopt the rollback rate of 8.577, there would not be a need for the three (3) public hearings. The 8.577 rate would generate \$11,049,990 at 100% collection or \$10,718,490 at the customary 97% collection rate, both of which are enough to fund the FY 2019-20 approved budget.

Option 3: To generate additional revenue to decrease the General Fund's reliance on other funds (i.e. Solid Waste) to balance the budget and to fund approved on-going projects (i.e. employee compensation plan, impact of The Grove development, etc. (more building inspectors, full time planner, road improvements, and assistance to Water Works), clean up and future development of new Ellerslie Park, maintenance of the new Rails to Trails linear park, etc. Three examples for Option 3 were provided, a .5 increase, a .75 increase, and a 1.00 increase, all of which were discussed at length.

Following discussion, consensus of the Board was to increase the millage rate by .75 (from 8.63 to 9.38) and to advertise accordingly (three (3) public hearings, hold two of the hearings on August 13 and the third on August 20 followed by the setting of the Millage).

3. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Langston made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

4. **RESUME CALLED SESSION.** The motion to go back into the Called Session was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.

5. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and pass unanimously.

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Becky Langston, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk