

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED SESSION - PUBLIC HEARING I
August 8, 2023
11:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Bobby Irions, Greg Gantt, Scott Lightsey. Commissioners Absent: Rob Grant, Susan Andrews. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk. Also in attendance: Wayne Morris, Chief Tax Appraiser; Wanda Bates, Deputy Tax Commissioner.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Commissioner Irions called the Called Session to order.

2. **FIRST PUBLIC HEARING AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE ON THE COUNTY'S 2023 MILLAGE LEVY - To hold a Public Hearing as required by State Law on the County's intent to levy a millage rate that differs from the calculated "rollback" millage rate for ad valorem tax purposes.** Commissioner Irions 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. Commissioner Irions said that the County has tentatively adopted a 2023 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 2.72 percent County Wide less West Point and by 6.60 percent in the West Point area; that this tentative increase will result in a millage of 9.13 mills.

Commissioner Irions 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 millage rate being the same and if the property assessment goes up then the taxes go up.

Commissioner Irions stated that if the value of the home has not gone up then the taxes will not go up.

Booth McKinney, citizen who lives on Shagbark Trail, appeared before the Board and advised that he wanted to know why the school district tax rate is more than the County tax rate.

Commissioner Irions stated that the school district receives the most property tax revenue; that he urges people to attend the Harris County School Board meetings; and that he talks to the other Commissioners about how to keep taxes down and about the need for commercial business.

Commissioner Lightsey stated that the millage rate in Harris County is lower than in a number of other counties.

Chief Tax Appraiser Wayne Morris addressed the Board. He provided an explanation of the rollback; that even at the rollback rate that the property tax amounts are not equally dispersed; that this year there is the Homeowner Tax Relief Grant provided by the State of Georgia; that he tries to make information clearer for the taxpayers; and explained the revaluation process.

There being no further comments, Commissioner Irions closed the Public Hearing.

3. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further discussion, Commissioner Irions reminded everyone that the next Public Hearing will be tonight at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Attest:

Rob Grant, Chairman

Andrea R. Dzioba, County Clerk