

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED SESSION - PUBLIC HEARING II
August 8, 2023
6:30 p.m.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Grant called the Called Session to order.

2. **SECOND 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.** Chairman Grant 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 second of three hearings the County is required to hold regarding same; and that there will be one more Public Hearing before the millage rate is set. Chairman Grant 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.

Chairman Grant asked Chief Tax Appraiser Wayne Morris if he would like to address related to the millage rate. Chief Tax Appraiser Wayne Morris address the Board and stated that the millage rate for the County and the School District is not changing this year from what he has seen; that everyone who did not have a property value change should pay the same amount of taxes as last year; that those whose property increased in value will have an increase in their tax amount; that those whose property value decreased will have a decrease in their tax amount; that the Homeowner Tax Relief Grant that Governor Kemp has put in place will give up to roughly \$475-\$480 to citizens with a homestead exemption and qualify for it; and that the Homeowner Tax Relief Grant is only for one year. He advised that these public hearings are required by the Taxpayers Bill of Rights because we had revaluation this year and are not going back to the rollback rate. He further advised that the School Board will be setting their millage rate this Thursday. In response to an inquiry from Vice-Chair Andrews, Mr. Morris advised that approximately 20% of the properties were re-evaluated this year and that 80% of property owners will not see an increase in their taxes.

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

There being none, Chairman Grant closed the Public Hearing.

3. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further discussion, Chairman Grant reminded everyone that the next Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. during the regular meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Attest:

Rob Grant, Chairman

Andrea R. Dzioba, County Clerk