

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED SESSION - PUBLIC HEARING I
August 6, 2024
11:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Rob Grant, Greg Gantt, Scott Lightsey. Commissioners Absent: Susan Andrews, Bobby Irions. Staff Present: Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk. Also in attendance: Shalee Mallory, Chief Appraiser; Wanda Bates, Tax Commissioner.

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

2. **FIRST PUBLIC HEARING AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE ON THE COUNTY'S 2024 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 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 Grant said that the County has tentatively adopted a 2024 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 3.57 percent County Wide less West Point and by 2.09 percent in the West Point area; that this tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 9.13 mills.

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

Bill Czukor, citizen who lives on Preston Court in Cataula, appeared before the Board and stated that even though the millage rate is the same that if the property assessment goes up then the taxes go up; that he worked for a municipality for over thirty years; and that the County has been spending substantial funds on projects such as swing sets, the observation tower, a powered basketball winch, and a new Water Works office. Mr. Czukor closed by thanking the Board for what they do.

David Gray, citizen who lives on Birchwood Drive in Fortson, appeared before the Board and advised that he wanted to know why the Board is raising taxes; that the Board can give the County a break; that they can lower taxes if they want to; and that he wants the Board to lower the millage rate.

Chairman Grant advised that the value of the homes has gone up and that taxes are not being raised. He further advised that the millage rate is staying the same.

Commissioner Lightsey stated that his value has gone up by \$60,000.

Chief Appraiser Shalee Mallory addressed the Board. She provided a brief explanation related to HB 581.

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

3. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further discussion, Chairman Grant reminded everyone that the next Public Hearing will be tonight at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea R. Dzioba, County Clerk