

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Public Hearing and Special Called Meeting on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., in the Brooks County Courthouse located at 100 E. Screven St., Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; and Ms. Myra Exum was dialed in via phone. Others present were: Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

**Public Hearing** – Notice of Property Tax Increase. Sign-in sheet was provided.

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 6.00 percent for the unincorporated area and by 6.60 percent for the incorporated area.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 13.128 mills, an increase of .744 mill, for unincorporated area and 15.248 mills, an increase of 0.944 mill, for incorporated area. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 12.384 mills for unincorporated area and 14.304 mills for incorporated area. The proposed tax increase for a home in the unincorporated area with a fair market value of 125,000 is approximately \$37.20 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of 150,000 is approximately \$44.64. The proposed tax increase for a home in the incorporated area with a fair market value of 125,000 is approximately \$47.20 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of 150,000 is approximately \$56.64.

A citizen of Brooks County asked if we considered seniors, living on a fixed income, when making the decision to raise property taxes. Commissioner Folsom explained that last year the millage was rolled back 1 mill but due to increased projects for the County, we had to take  $\frac{1}{4}$  of it back this year so there actually has not been an increase in 2 years. She also asked if we were receiving aid from the Federal Government to help seniors. Ms. McKinney answered yes, through LMIG for road projects and C.A.R.E.S Act. The increase is to cover other projects outside of these. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Cody spoke, saying we had no choice at this time.

Chairman closed the public hearing at 6:16 pm to go into the special called meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman called the Special Called Meeting to order. Chairman Folsom led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. AMEND AGENDA** - The agenda was amended to remove item (4.) Package Sales Referendum and table to review at a later date. Mr. Cody made the motion; Mr. Maxwell seconded; vote was unanimous.

**3. SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**  
**A. Resolutions**

1. Millage – Resolution was made that the millage rate for Brooks County, Georgia shall be set to 13.128 mills for the unincorporated area of Brooks County, an increase of 0.744 mills, and a millage rate of 15.248 mills, an increase of 0.944 mills, for the incorporated area of Brooks County. The millage rate for the Development Authority is set at .500 mills. Vice Chairman Maxwell made the motion; Mr. Cody seconded; vote was unanimous.
2. Fire Fee – The Brooks County Board of Commissioners determined it is necessary to increase the assessment of fees for fire protection services in Brooks County by 50% to adequately provide fire protection services. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Maxwell; seconded by Ms. Exum; the vote was unanimous.
3. Budget Amendment – Brooks County Board of Commissioners wish to amend the previously approved budget of \$13,101,000.00 and reduce it to \$12,730,092.64. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Maxwell; seconded by Ms. Exum; vote was unanimous.
4. Package Sales Referendum - Tabled

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Folsom at 6:36 pm.