

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Public Hearing on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Brooks County Administration Building in the Commissioners Meeting Room, located at 610 South Highland Road; Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Ms. Myra Exum was not present; Others present were Mr. Randall Dowling, Interim County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Mrs. Becky Rothrock, Tax Commissioner; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney, and various residents.

Public Hearing – Chairman Folsom called public hearing to order. Chairman read the Press Release Announcing a Proposed Property Tax Increase. Mr. Larko led all in attendance in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

The purpose of the hearing was to allow citizen input on the tentative adopted millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 3.33 percent for the unincorporated area and 5.20 percent for the incorporated area. The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 12.475 mills; an increase of .402 mills for unincorporated area; and 14.278 mills, an increase of .706 mills for incorporated area.

A sign-in sheet was provided for those in attendance who wish to speak, there were two citizens signed in.

Mr. Grant Harvey, Langdale Company, stated he was there for the first time to learn and take information back to the company. The Tax Commissioner, Mrs. Becky Rothrock explained to Mr. Grant that the Board is not increasing property taxes. The increase is due to the growth of the digest. The Board will levy taxes this year by 3.33 percent over the rollback millage rate for the unincorporated area and by 5.20 percent over the rollback millage rate for the incorporated area.

Mr. Chad Arrendale stated he was there for the same reason to learn. The Tax Commissioner provided an explanation as to what caused the property tax increase as with Mr. Harvey.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adopt the millage rate of 12.475 mills for the unincorporated area and 14.287 mills for the unincorporated area, Mr. Cody seconded. Chairman called for the vote, the vote was 3 to 1, with Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, and Chairman Folsom voting in favor. Mr. Larko opposed.

After discussion of the Development Authority increase, Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve an increase from .03 to .05, Chairman called for a second once, twice, and a third time, motion failed for lack of a second.

The Board closed the public hearing at 6:42 p.m., Mr. Maxwell motioned, and Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Mr. Randy Dowling, Interim County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk