

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
August 15, 2023
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a special called session at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, GA, with Chairman Perdue presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, and Robinson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Animal Control Alan Smith, Fire/HEMA Chief Stoner, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, and Community Planner Jake Cox.

Chairman Perdue opened the meeting welcoming everyone and thanking them for being there. He then gave a presentation of the proposed 2023 millage rate with a focus on four options that the Board could choose from: a complete rollback to 9.066 mills, hold steady at the current 9.810 millage rate, increase the millage rate to 9.811 mills to remain at the tax cap, or another option all together. He then presented considerations the Board needed to examine regarding funding variables: property tax is the most reliable revenue source, collection could vary, impact to the fire millage rate, reserves that Houston County enjoys, and reevaluations of real property. Chairman Perdue stated the recommendation that the Board was examining included a roll back of the millage rate by .249 mills which will allow the county to operate judiciously and at the same time offer a little property tax relief for the citizens. In conclusion Chairman Perdue presented a rundown of the millage rate history for the last 6 years in Houston County.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened a Public Hearing.

There being no public comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Commissioner Comments.

Ms. Robinson stated this was the third and final meeting and that she agreed with the Chairman in his presentation and felt that the partial roll back of .249 mills was the right thing to do for both the citizens and the County and is a good balance.

Mr. Byrd gave thanks for everyone who came and took part of the three meetings about the Tax Levy. He commented that with inflation affecting the cost of providing services and running the County, this was the best solution. He thanked staff for presenting a budget and employees for staying within the budget, making this rollback possible.

Mr. Gottwals said we are a product of our own success, that the county is growing by leaps and bounds and that property values are going to rise as a result. He further stated that the Boards job is to do what is best for the citizens, and the future of the County and he feels that with this roll back they had. He further mentioned that the word balanced comes to mind when talking about this partial rollback of the millage rate in the that the decision helps the citizens with tax relief while providing for the needs of the County.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson to approve the signing of resolutions setting the Houston County tax levy for 2023 at 22.744 mills in the incorporated areas and 23.921 mills in the unincorporated areas, as hereby specified:

Incorporated		Unincorporated	
9.561 mills	General County Purposes	9.561 mills	General County Purposes
13.183 mills	Educational Purposes	13.183 mills	Educational Purposes
<u>0.000 mills</u>	State Levy	0.000 mills	State Levy
22.744 mills		<u>1.177 mills</u>	Fire Levy
		23.921 mills	

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Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, to adjourn the meeting. Upon voting, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Gottwals, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner
Commissioner Talton was not
present so he does not sign.
Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner