

August 23 2016
Statesboro, GA

Special Called Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met for a called meeting at 8:30 am in the Community Room of the North Main Annex. Chairman Nevil called the meeting to order and welcomed staff. He gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Olympia Gaines, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge. Commissioner Simmons was absent. The following staff were present: County Manager Tom Couch, Assistant County Manager Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Whitney Richland, Tax Commissioner James Deal, Tax Assessor John Scott, Management Analyst Cindy Steinmann, and County Engineer Kirk Tatum

Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications of the General Agenda. Mr. Couch asked to modify the General Agenda by adding item #1 under New Business to authorize a resolution to adopt the proposed millage rates for calendar year 2016. Without further discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the General Agenda with the modifications requested by Mr. Couch. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item of business was a public hearing for the proposed property tax increase. He called for a motion to open the floor to the public for questions and/or comments regarding the proposed property tax increase. Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to open the floor to the public for questions and/or comments regarding the proposed property tax increase. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated as required by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1999, the County is required to hold a public hearing if the Commissioners choose not to roll back the millage rate to account for any inflationary increase in the value of the tax digest. He reviewed

briefly the Board's decision in 2015 to increase the millage rate from 10.44 mills to 12.34 mills. Mr. Couch stated that this year the Board would need to roll back the millage rate from 12.34 mills to 12.286 mills in order to avoid it being deemed a tax increase under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Mr. Couch stated in order to meet the on-going challenges for balancing competing and increasing demands for services and to maintain the County's financial position, he is recommending that the current millage rate of 12.34 mills be maintained.

Chairman Nevil asked for public comments and/or questions from the audience at large. Hearing none, he called for a motion to close the public hearing regarding the proposed property tax increase. Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to close the public hearing regarding the proposed property tax increase. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item under New Business was for discussion and/or action to authorize a resolution to adopt the proposed millage rates for calendar year 2016. Mr. Akins stated the proposed levies for the calendar year 2016 net millage rates are as follows: (1) Bulloch County Board of Commissioners M&O at 12.34 Mills; (2) Statesboro Special Fire Tax District M&O at 1.80 Mills; (3) Bulloch County Board of Education M&O at 9.804 Mills; (4) Bulloch County Board of Education Bond at 0.450 Mills.

Without further discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve and adopt a resolution setting the millage rates for Bulloch County taxing jurisdictions under the scope of the Board of Commissioners and for the Bulloch County Board of Education (See Exhibit #2016-129). Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil called for general comments from the commissioners and staff. Commissioner Mosley reminded everyone of the Willow Hill Festival scheduled for September 3rd beginning at 9am. . Hearing no further comments from the commissioners or staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: _____
Olympia Gaines, Clerk