



**CITY OF LITHONIA  
MINUTES – MILLAGE RATE PUBLIC HEARING  
Thursday, June 29, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

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**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting began at 5:49 pm. Mayor Reynolds conducted roll call. Council members Inman, Howard and Wynn were in attendance. Council member Honore was not in attendance during roll call.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard was absent.

Council member Honore arrived at 5:50 pm

**II. Public Hearing**

**Motion** – made by Council member Howard to open Public Hearing for Millage Rate. Council member Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**a. Report from City Administrator Donald Dejarnette**

City Administrator Dejarnette explained that this year's county proposed rollback rate is 8.89 and the city is proposing to keep the same millage rate as last year at 11.021. He clarified that this would be a decision to keep the same mill rate the same as last year. He stated the proposed rate is a 23% increase over the County's proposed millage rate whereas last year it was 28% over the recommended rollback rate. He clarified that this would be a decision to keep the same mill rate the same as last year.

**b. Presentation by Persons Opposed to the change (10 minutes allotted)**

**Kathleen De Cocq** – spoke in opposition to the proposed millage rate because of the increase in property taxes.

**Patricia Robinson** – spoke in opposition to the proposed millage rate because of the increase in property taxes. She expressed concerns about how the Seniors would be affected stating they simply cannot work multiple jobs.

Council member Wynn informed the public that they have until July 10<sup>th</sup> to appeal any tax decisions. She explained that everything is very expensive right now.

**c. Presentation by Persons In-Favor to the change (10 minutes allotted)**

No one spoke in favor.

**d. Closing of Public Hearing**

**Motion** – made by Council member Inman to close the Public Hearing. Council member Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**e. Deliberation by Council on City Manager Recommendations and Presentations**

Council member Howard asked Council if they really looked at some alternative numbers for the proposed millage rate.

Council member Inman provided an explanation of calculating the millage rate based on her property at a rate of .10 to provide clarity on the difference it would make in the city's revenue.

Council member Howard requested to see revenue numbers at several different millage rates to better understand what effects those numbers would have on the city and its budget. Council member Inman and City Administrator Dejarnette both provided those calculations.

Council member Honore stated that everyone has a budget and stated that all the city's expenses have increased as well. He stated the city currently spends more money than it receives in taxes and everyone in the community must put in their share to keep things moving forward.

**f. Decision**

**Motion** – made by Council member Honore to approve the proposed Millage Rate. Council member Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**II. Adjournment**

**Motion** – made Council Member Howard to close Public Hearing and adjourn. Council member Inman seconded.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

The meeting ended at 6:30 pm.

Attest:

  
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Ashley Waters, City Clerk

  
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Shemekha Reynolds, Mayor