



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
OXFORD CITY HALL
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022 – 9:00 A.M.**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mike Ready

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: City Manager Bill Andrew, City Clerk/Treasurer Marcia Brooks

OTHERS PRESENT: Art Vinson, Susan Ballard

The public hearing was called to order at 9:00 am by the Hon. Mike Ready, Mayor Pro Tempore

City Manager Bill Andrew explained that the City has proposed to keep its millage rate the same as it was in 2021. However, the property tax values increased in 2022 by 29.93%. State law requires the City of Oxford to advertise a tax increase under these circumstances and hold three public hearings. A second public hearing is scheduled for today at 6:00 p.m., and a third public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on August 1, 2022. Mr. Andrew opened the floor to public comment.

Susan Ballard

Ms. Ballard stated that when she received the information, she did not understand how the 30% increase would impact her on her taxes. She also asked how the increase in revenue will be targeted, whether it will be put back into the town for its residents or if the college will receive a big part of it.

Art Vinson

Mr. Vinson has been trying to figure out the hocus pocus presented by the numbers. He understands that the assessed value is driven by market forces and the assessors have to follow a process driven by law to assess property values each year. He believes the millage rate is under the control of the City Council. If you have a huge increase in the assessment, you can moderate the increase in taxes that property owners pay by lowering the millage rate. With those two facts in mind, the question becomes, if we are not lowering the millage rate, what are we doing with all this extra money that's coming in, with a 30% year over year change as shown in the materials. He asked if we debated and voted on the money that's coming in.

Mike Ready explained that the budget was adopted not knowing exactly what the millage rate would be, since the digest comes every year after the adoption of the budget.

Mr. Ready adjourned the Public Hearing at 9:06 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcia Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcia Brooks
City Clerk/Treasurer

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Oxford has tentatively adopted a 2022 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 29.93 percent. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the Oxford City Hall, 110 W. Clark Street, Oxford, Georgia on July 18, 2022 at 9:00 AM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at the Oxford City Hall, 110 W. Clark Street, Oxford, Georgia, on July 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM and August 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM. This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 5.444 mills, an increase of 1.254 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 4.190 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$37.62 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$50.16.

CURRENT 2022 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

The Mayor and Council of the City of Oxford do hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Oxford City Hall on August 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A., 48-5-32, the Mayor and Council do hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CITY OF OXFORD	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Real & Personal	18,334,025	20,285,798	22,155,784	24,368,394	28,812,997	36,781,116
Motor Vehicles	1,088,540	824,640	729,820	593,120	500,270	458,960
Mobile Homes	480	480	480	480	480	480
Timber-100%						0
Heavy Duty Equipment					41,995	169,200
Gross Digest	19,423,045	21,110,918	22,886,084	24,961,994	29,355,742	37,409,756
Less M&O Exemptions	3,302,207	3,270,355	3,369,150	3,385,009	3,465,976	3,558,609
Net M&O Digest	16,120,838	17,840,563	19,516,934	21,576,985	25,889,766	33,851,147
Gross M&O Millage	23.200	22.710	22.860	23.611	20.945	20.419
Less Rollbacks	16.578	16.094	16.235	16.989	15.501	14.975
Net M&O Millage	6.622	6.622	6.622	6.622	5.444	5.444
Net Taxes Levied	\$106,752	\$118,140	\$129,241	\$142,883	\$140,944	\$184,286
Net Taxes \$ Increase	\$1,321	\$11,388	\$11,101	\$13,642	-\$1,939	\$43,342
Net Taxes % Increase	1.25%	10.67%	9.40%	10.56%	-1.36%	30.75%