

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES – THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534
4:00 PM**

Those present were Chairman Billy Thurmond; Commissioner Chris Gaines, District 2; Commissioner Emory Dooley, District 4; County Manager Joey Leverette; County Attorney Melissa Tracy; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County. District 1 Commissioner Seth Stowers and District 3 Commissioner Alexa Bruce were not present.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 2023 Millage Rate and Property Tax (*2nd of 3 hearings; 1st hearing was held July 6, 2023, and the 3rd hearing will be held at 6 p.m. August 3, 2023*)

Chairman Thurmond made a presentation concerning the 2023 Millage Rate and Property Tax.

Chairman Thurmond opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the 2023 Millage Rate and Property Tax.

The following spoke on the 2023 Millage Rate and Property Tax:

Clifford Purdy, Dawsonville, Georgia, said, “My principle concern involves the school because this is the first time I’ve been charged school taxes, and the result is that my taxes are going to go up 21.9 times and that seems inordinate. I don’t know if that’s because I’m being charged for something for the school that I shouldn’t be charged for. I don’t understand what the charge is.”

Tim Satterfield, Dawsonville, Georgia, said, “I know some states and counties around the country have taken care of their seniors with rollbacks on taxes on seniors. I think this is a trickle-down effect. It was a very low percentage of houses that sold over their assessed values and their appraised values, which affected all the rest of the evaluations because it jacked the prices of the houses up. This has a big effect on our seniors with fixed incomes. We have retired teachers with disabled spouses, and this has really affected them. I’d love to see it get on the legislation and try to get it to the public vote. I’d love to see the county either freeze [taxes for] seniors or roll them back, and let’s take care of them.”

Rhonda Tinsley, Dawsonville, Georgia, said, “My assessment went up over \$200,000 in one year. I realize the county has to pay for services, but this is crazy to go up that much in one year. My property taxes have gone up over \$1,500 in one year. I just don’t see how our senior citizens are going to continue this.” She added, “I think you really do need to drop the millage rate. I just don’t see how we’re going to be able to afford this any more in this county.”

Mark Ferenc, Dawsonville, Georgia, said, “I, too, really don’t understand the whole mechanism behind this huge increase that we’re talking about, and I’m a senior citizen...on a fixed income. What exactly is the third piece of the pie?”

Chairman Thurmond asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak on the 2023 Millage Rate and Property Tax and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

The next public hearing concerning the 2023 Millage Rate and Property Tax will be held at the August 3, 2023, Voting Session.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation of Results of the FY 2022 Audit- BatesCarter’s Amanda Wilkson
This item was for information only.
2. Presentation of Application for Parade and Assembly - *Sheriff’s Office Shop with a Cop Motorcycle Ride Fundraiser*- Sheriff Jeff Johnson
This item will be placed on the August 3, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.
3. Presentation of Request to Accept Kinship Caregiver Support Cohort Funds Awarded by Georgia Family Connection Partnership- Family Connection Coordinator Rebecca Bliss
This item will be added to the July 20, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.
4. Presentation of IFB #421-23 - Fence/Dugout/Backstop Replacement for Veterans Memorial Park- Parks & Recreation Director Matt Payne / Purchasing Manager Melissa Hawk
This item, presented by Purchasing Manager Melissa Hawk, will be added to the July 20, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.
5. Presentation of FY 2024 Legacy Link Contract for Nutrition Program Services- Senior Services Director Dawn Johnson
This item will be added to the July 20, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.
6. Presentation of Proposed Revisions to Dawson County Ordinances Involving Massage and Bodywork Therapy Businesses and Tattoo/Body Art Businesses- County Attorney Angela Davis
This item was postponed and will be placed on the August 3, 2023, Work Session Agenda.
7. County Manager Report
This item was for information only.
8. County Attorney Report
County Attorney Tracy had no information to report.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Kristen Cloud, County Clerk