



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
JULY 29, 2020 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

**Amanda Boggus, Mayor
Lori Pfister, Vice Mayor
Lou Buigas, Council Member
Troy Singer, Council Member – *Virtual Attendance*
Roy Stevenson, Council Member**

STAFF PRESENT

**John Drury, City Administrator
Bob Williams, City Attorney
Susie Novack, City Clerk
Mike Fitzgerald, Community Development Director
Bob Tweedie, Economic Development Director
Lori Houghton, Finance Director
Richard Keith, Fire Chief
Sarah Coursey, Police Lieutenant
James Dillon, Public Works Director
Phil Clark, Utilities Director
Mark O'Keefe, Public Communications Director**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boggus called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Richard Keith, Fire Chief, provided the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Tab. 1. Budget Workshop – Setting of Maximum Tentative Millage Rate

Mr. Drury said the agenda item before the Council is to set the Tentative Maximum Millage Rates. He said the Finance Director will present the rates needed to be set to support the current budget currently being deliberated by the Council. Mr. Drury stated both millage rates presented are lower than the current millage rate. After the Tentative Maximum Rate is set it can only be lowered in the future and not raised. The Tentative Maximum Millage Rate will be mailed to all voters in Tavares to advise what their maximum millage rate would be the following year. This notice is required by all tax setting authorities and provides an opportunity for the citizens to plan their future financial affairs.

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

*The City's General, Enterprise, and Special Funds budgets were presented at the July 1st and July 15th City Council meetings. The maximum tentative millage rate will be set at this meeting. The Five Year Capital Plan will be delivered, presented and discussed at the August 5th, 2020 budget workshop. The August 19th budget workshop does not focus on a specific aspect of the proposed budget, but will instead be used to discuss all fund budgets. There will be two Public Hearings on the budget, September 3, 2020 (a Thursday, and not a Regular Council Meeting) and September 16, 2020, at which time the **final** millage rates will be set and the final budget will be adopted.*

- *The proposed General Fund maximum millage rate of 6.90 mills represents a decrease from the prior year millage rate of .05 mills (6.9500 – 6.900), a .72% decrease over prior year, and is 5.92% above the rollback rate of 6.5143 mills.*
- *The proposed Voted Debt Service maximum millage rate of .2623 mills represents a decrease from the prior year millage rate of .0309 mills (.2932 - .2623), a 10.54% decrease over prior year.*
- *The maximum tentative millage rate will be set at this meeting (7-29-2020).*
- *Total decrease is .0809 mills (.05 + .0309) which is a 1.12% total decrease.*

Once the City Council sets the Maximum Tentative Millage Rate it may be decreased as the Council moves through the budget process; however, it may not be increased. Staff recommended approval of Option 1, to set the Maximum Tentative Millage Rate at 6.90 mils, and the Voted Maximum Tentative Voted Debt Millage Rate at 0.2623.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Vice Mayor Pfister asked for the amount lost if the city implements the rollback rate. Ms. Houghton said \$404,414.

MOTION

Roy Stevenson moved to adopt the millage rates as presented [Option 1, to set the Maximum Tentative Millage Rate at 6.90 mils, and the Voted Maximum Tentative Voted Debt Millage Rate at 0.2623], seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Drury said the Capital Program will be delivered and General Fund and Utility Fund discussion will be held at the August 5, 2020 City Council Budget Workshop.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Boggus adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk