



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 29TH, 2022
5:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore
Brian Fisher
Dee Merriam
Lionel Laratte
Lisa Shortell

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant
Shannon Powell
Ellen Powell
Kayla Green

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Laratte moved to adopt. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Commissioner Comments**
Commissioner Laratte said he just went to his first Town Green concert and it was excellent. Commissioner Shortell pointed out the start of construction on the Town Green pavilion. Mayor Elmore also commented on the Town Green concerts.

Item #4 **Receive Public Comment on the 2021 Tax Millage Rate**
The Governing Authority of the City of Avondale Estates has tentatively adopted a 2022 millage rate of **9.8** mills, the same rate as the past four years.

City Manager Bryant explained the reclassification of some commercial properties. He said he had a meeting with the county's tax appraiser and shared what he had learned. Specifically, the valuation of property developed by Trammell Crow was decreased upon appeal. They were also given a tax reprieve and the owners were able to get the property reclassified as a brownfield, further aiding their tax status. Mr. Bryant noted that the increase in other commercial properties offsets this loss. Lyda Steadman urged the BOMC to cut back expenses and grant residents a tax break. Linda Hamilton asked how the Trammell Crow property could be reclassified without the public knowing. Mr. Bryant explained the process. Ms. Hamilton also requested lower

taxes. Mayor Elmore pointed out that the city's costs have also risen. Phil Feibish also spoke out against higher taxes. Mel Hatfield had questions about how the millage rate is calculated. Commissioner Shortell also offered explanation. Mr. Hatfield was in favor of lower taxes, as did Klaus van Den Berg. Paul Dorroh believed there are discrepancies in the tax digest and asked staff to look into it. Ms. Steadman added that the tax digest is constantly changing. Mr. van Den Berg disputed that the BOMC had no control over these issues. Mr. Feibish said he read that the property owners can ask for even more tax breaks lasting up to ten years. Stacy Bearden made comments regarding inflation. Ms. Hamilton asked if there was anything that could be done about the brownfield reclassification. Ms. Shortell offered some suggestions. Liz Goodstein urged relief for those on fixed incomes to allow them to stay in the neighborhood. She asked that taxes be reduced.

Item #5 Public Comment

Item #6 Adjournment
Commissioner Shortell moved to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED JULY 13TH, 2022



Gina Hill, City Clerk