

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor  
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem  
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner  
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner  
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager  
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager  
Ellen Powell, Communications Manager  
Gina Hill, City Clerk  
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

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

Item #3 **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.

Lyda Steadman thanked the BOMC for taking extra comments the previous evening. She urged the BOMC to cut the budget and pass the savings along to residents in the form of lower taxes. She also believed residents have yet to see any tax benefits from the growth in the downtown area. Marti Schallern asked that the BOMC not raise taxes and she had questions about how money is spent by city hall. She felt jobs and/or salaries should be cut and tax breaks should be given to seniors and the disabled based on income. Paul Dorroh asked the BOMC to find out why some property owners avoid taxes and to correct any administrative errors with the county. Klaus van Den Berg asked the BOMC to look closely at the tax digest and roll back the millage rate. Ms. Steadman offered to research senior tax exemptions and she explained how it could be done. Johnny Garcia spoke in favor of senior tax relief and being good stewards of the public's money. Melissa O'Shields said many seniors don't feel heard and she has been asking for senior tax relief for three years. Liz Goodstein also supported senior tax breaks and a lower millage rate. Alexandra

Lamb said her taxes have doubled since being annexed into the city and she asked the BOMC to be vigilant about expenses. Ms. Schallern had more comments and questions. Phil Feibish felt he's been a good citizen but may have to leave Avondale because of high taxes. Ms. Lamb suggested adding housing to the Town Green to increase revenue.

Item #4

#### **Resolution to Set 2022 Tax Millage Rate**

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, Mayor Elmore, and Commissioners Shortell and Merriam offered reasons why they support the proposed millage rate. Commissioner Laratte thanked everyone for coming and voicing their opinions.

Lyda Steadman disputed the mayor's assertion that the city was unsustainable in the past. She felt more caution should be used in city operations. Marti Schallern had questions about short term rental revenues. Phil Feibish said he feels disconnected from city hall and is losing faith in city leadership. Liz Goodstein believed a lot of issues could be avoided if citizens were more involved. She again spoke out against a tax increase. Ms. Steadman suggested the city save money by returning to using citizen volunteers. Ms. Schallern agreed. Peggy Roney said other residents refuse to attend meetings because they don't believe they'll be heard.

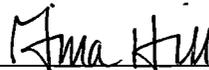
Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to adopt the proposed millage rate. Commissioner Shortell seconded. Four ayes, one nay (Laratte)

Item #5

#### **Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to adjourn. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



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Gina Hill, City Clerk