

CITY OF ALACHUA COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA AND SCRIPT

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

FIRST HEARING

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 MILLAGES AND BUDGETS

I. Introduction to Public Hearing on City of Alachua Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Budget

MISTER MAYOR:

The City of Alachua Commission convenes the Public Hearing on the City of Alachua Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Millages and Proposed Budget as required by Florida Statutes, Chapters 129 and 200 and as advertised in the TRIM Notices.

If anyone in our audience is here for the purpose of contesting their assessment, a petition for adjustment with the Value Adjustment Board should have been filed no later than 5:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 8th, 2015. The petition forms were available in the Property Appraiser's Office.

This evening we will take a number of actions related to the adoption of millages and budgets. The Final Public Hearing on these matters will be held on Monday, September 28th, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at this same location, Alachua City Hall Commission Chambers.

I encourage you, if you have not already done so, to get a copy of the agenda so you may more easily follow the proceedings this evening. Citizen comments will be taken following the overview of the proposed budget by the City Manager and Finance Director.

The City Attorney will now present an overview of the Truth-In-Millage Legislation followed by the City Manager's explanation of the proposed and rolled back millage rates.

II. Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Millage Rates and Proposed General City Budget

A. Overview of Truth-in-Millage Legislation

CITY ATTORNEY:

In 1980, the Florida Legislature adopted what is known as the Truth in Millage Legislation or TRIM, as it's called. The goal of the legislation was to ensure that taxpayers were advised of the public hearings at which the local taxing authorities' budgets and millage rates are considered and adopted. Each year, the Property Appraiser completes an assessment of the value of all property and certifies to each taxing authority the taxable value of the property within its jurisdiction. Each taxing authority then notifies the Property Appraiser of its proposed millage rate, its rolled back rate and the date, time and place of the public hearing to consider the proposed millage rate and the proposed budget. Once the Property Appraiser receives the information, he sends a notice by first class mail to every taxpayer on the assessment roll. The notice contains the information from the taxing authorities as to the proposed millage rate and the time and place of the public hearing. The notice sent to taxpayers is called the TRIM notice. The TRIM notice lists what the taxes were for the prior year, what the taxes will be if the proposed budget changes are made, and what the taxes will be if no budget changes are made. This information is listed for each taxing authority.

The notice also lists all voted levies for debt service. The purpose of the TRIM notice is to provide taxpayers with sufficient basic information to enable them to participate in the public hearing process.

B. Explanation of the General City Proposed and Rolled Back Millage Rates

CITY MANAGER:

One of the requirements of the Truth-in-Millage legislation is to provide information about why proposed millage rates are higher or lower than the rolled back millage rates. The proposed millage for the City of Alachua is 5.9900 mills, which is 8.34% more than the rolled back rate of 5.5290 mills. Rolled back millage rate is defined as "the millage rate, which exclusive of new construction, additions to structure, deletions, and property added due to geographic boundary changes, will provide the same ad valorem tax revenue for each taxing authority as was levied during the prior year."

The rolled back millage rate in the General Fund would have generated approximately \$317,915 less than the proposed millage rate will. This \$317,915 increase in tax revenue is being recommended to provide for sustained growth, address commission goals and to provide for increased levels of service to the citizens of Alachua.

Robert Bonetti, Finance Director will now present an overview of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016.

C. Overview of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Budget and of Adjustments made to that Budget

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

The total City proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 is **\$36,169,311**, which is a net decrease from the amended fiscal year 2015 budget of **\$38,353,339**. This equates to a 5.69% decrease. This decrease is mainly due to a reduction in appropriation for Special Revenue funds related to the completion of the NW 142 Terrace and Swick House projects during the current fiscal year. Additionally, the City refinanced its Series 2001 Section 108 Loan during the current fiscal year. Finally, this total does not include any carry forward appropriations for unfinished projects. These will be included in the final budget adoption on September 28, 2015.

This revised budget total of \$36,169,311 is \$47,557 more than the Proposed Budget total of \$36,121,754 presented to you at the August 24th, 2015 budget workshop. The budget was adjusted to account for the Merrillwood RIVER Grant (\$42,795) and accommodate for Personal Services within the Executive Department approved on August 24th, 2015 (\$4,762).

Mister Mayor that concludes my comments on the proposed budgets presented to you in August 2015.

III. Citizens Comments on Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Millage Rates and Proposed Budget

MISTER MAYOR:

I would now like to invite citizens to comment on the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 proposed millage rates and proposed budget. Please come forward to the podium if you wish to address the Commission. We do request that each speaker try to limit his or her comments to 3 minutes. The hearing will continue until everyone who wishes to address the Commission has had an opportunity to speak.

IV. City of Alachua Action on FY 2015-2016 Proposed Millages and Proposed Budgets

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Mister Mayor, the document before you, the "City of Alachua Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Budget", includes the changes that were described earlier. Any additional adjustments to this proposed budget can be made by motion at this time.

CITY COMMISSION:

Adjustments adopted by motion (if any adjustments are entertained).

A. Adoption of Resolution Establishing Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed General City Millage Rates

CITY MANAGER:

Florida Statutes require that the name of the taxing authority, the millage rate to be levied, the rolled-back rate and the percentage increase over rolled-back rate be publicly announced. Accordingly, the City of Alachua Commission has determined that a proposed millage rate of 5.9900 mills is necessary to fund the proposed general City budget. The proposed millage rate represents an increase of 8.34% from the rolled-back rate of 5.5290 mills.

CITY COMMISSION:

Discussion and adoption of resolution 15-22

- B. Adoption of Resolution Adopting Changes, Revenue Estimates, and the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed General City Budget**

CITY COMMISSION:

Discussion and Adoption of Resolution 15-23

- C. Adjournment**