

**CITY OF ALACHUA COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA AND SCRIPT**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 MILLAGE AND BUDGETS

I. Call to Order

CITY COMMISSION:

Motion to read Resolutions by title only.

II. Introduction to Public Hearing on City of Alachua Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Budget

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR:

Overview of Public Hearing.

MAYOR:

The City of Alachua Commission convenes the Public Hearing on the City of Alachua Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Tentative Millage 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 prior to 5:00 P.M. today, Monday, September 12th, 2016. The petition forms were available at the Alachua County Property Appraiser's Office.

This evening we will take a number of actions related to the adoption of the proposed tentative millage and budgets. The Final Public Hearing on these matters will be held on Monday, September 26th, 2016 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 and Administrative Services 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.

III. Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Tentative Millage Rate 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 tentative millage for the City of Alachua is 5.9900 mills, which is 2.29% more than the rolled back rate of 5.8558 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 \$95,501 less than the proposed millage rate will. This \$95,501 increase in tax revenue is being recommended to provide for sustained growth, maintain City infrastructure, address commission goals and to provide for increased levels of service to the citizens of Alachua.

Robert Bonetti, Finance and Administrative Services Director will now present an overview of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-2017.

C. Overview of Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Budget and of Adjustments made to that Budget

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR:

The total City proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 is **\$39,570,809** which is a net decrease from the amended fiscal year 2015-2016 budget of **\$15,841,329**. This equates to a 28.59% decrease. This decrease is mainly due to a reduction in appropriations for Capital Projects such as Project Legacy Phase I, the Operations Center/Warehouse and CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization projects. Carry forward appropriations for unfinished projects will be included in the final budget to be presented at the public hearing on September 26, 2016.

This revised budget total of **\$39,570,809** is **\$129,126** more than the Proposed Budget total of **\$39,441,683** that was presented to you at the August 22nd, 2016 budget workshop. The budget was adjusted to account for the increase in Personal Services within the Executive

Department related to the City Manager's evaluation (\$5,000) and an increase in the Electric Utility Fund transfers to balance and accelerate the closing of the CP-Municipal Complex Fund (\$124,126).

Mister Mayor that concludes my comments on the proposed budgets presented to you during the month of August of the current calendar year.

IV. Citizens Comments on Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Tentative Millage Rate and Proposed Budget

MAYOR:

I would now like to invite citizens to comment on the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 proposed tentative millage rate 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 three minutes. The hearing will continue until everyone who wishes to address the Commission has had an opportunity to speak.

V. City of Alachua Action on FY 2016-2017 Proposed Tentative Millage and Proposed Budgets

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR:

Mister Mayor, the document before you, the "City of Alachua Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Budget", includes the changes that were described earlier.

A. Adoption of Resolution Establishing Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Tentative General City Millage Rate

CITY ATTORNEY:

[Reading of Resolution 16-22 by title only]

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 2.29% from the rolled-back rate of 5.8558 mills.

CITY COMMISSION:

Discussion and adoption of resolution 16-22

B. Adoption of Resolution Adopting Changes, Revenue Estimates and the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed General City Budget

CITY ATTORNEY:

[Reading of Resolution 16-23 by title only]

CITY COMMISSION:

Discussion and Adoption of Resolution 16-23

C. Adjournment