

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

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2017
[rescheduled from 09/11/17 due to Hurricane Irma]**

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET

I. Introduction to Public Hearing on City of Alachua 2017 Tax Roll Year Tentative Millage and Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Tentative Budget

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR:

Overview of Public Hearing.

CITY MANAGER:

Summary of FY 2017-2018 Budget Message.

MAYOR:

The City of Alachua Commission convenes the Public Hearing on the City of Alachua Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Proposed Tentative Millage and Tentative 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 the deadline of 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 13th, 2017. Due to Hurricane Irma, this deadline was extended from the prior deadline of Monday, September 11th, 2017. 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 tentative millage and budgets. The Final Public Hearing on these matters will be held on Monday, September 25th, 2017 at 6:00 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 tentative and rolled back millage rates.

III. Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Proposed Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative 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 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 in 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 tentative millage rate and budget. Once the Property Appraiser receives the information, notice is sent 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 Tentative 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 tentative millage being proposed for the City of Alachua is 5.3900 mills, which is 5.55% less than the rolled back rate of 5.7065 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 \$248,434 more than the tentative millage rate will. This \$248,434 decrease beyond the rolled back rate is possible as a result of the elimination of the City's fire contract with Alachua County. The tentative millage rate of 5.3900 will continue to enable the City to provide for continued growth, maintenance of infrastructure, the furthering of commission goals and provision of 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 2017-2018.

C. Overview of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Tentative Budget and of Adjustments made to that Budget

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR:

The total City tentative budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 is **\$38,574,055** which is a net decrease from the amended fiscal year 2016-2017 budget of **\$11,810,621**. This equates to a 23.4% decrease. This decrease is mainly due to a reduction in appropriations for Capital Projects such as Project Legacy Phase I, the Operations Center/Warehouse facility, the Neighborhood Revitalization Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-NR) and Economic Development Transportation Fund (EDTF) projects.

This revised budget total of **\$38,574,055** is **\$616,165** less than the budget total of **\$39,190,220** that was presented to you at the budget workshops that took place during the past month of August. The budget was adjusted to account for, primarily, a millage reduction from 5.9900 mills to 5.3900 mills. This was accomplished through the budgetary elimination of the fire contract (\$661,308) with Alachua County along with a decrease (\$12,150) in the Tax Increment Funding to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) from the General Fund. Additionally, budget was increased in the General Fund within the Executive Department (\$5,293) in accordance to the merit awarded to the City Manager and the CRA budget was increased to provide treescaping project costs (\$52,000) that are currently encumbered but will not be expensed during the current fiscal year.

Additional carry forward appropriations for unfinished projects and open purchase orders will be included in the final budget to be presented at the public hearing on September 25, 2017. Mister Mayor that concludes my comments regarding the tentative budget that is being presented.

IV. Citizens Comments on Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget

MAYOR:

I would now like to invite citizens to comment on the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed tentative millage rate and tentative 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 2017-2018 Tentative Millage and Tentative Budgets

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR:

Mister Mayor, the document before you, the "City of Alachua Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Tentative Budget", includes the changes that were described earlier.

A. Resolution Establishing Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Tentative General City Millage Rate

CITY ATTORNEY:

[Reading of Resolution 17-23 by title only – if not previously read]

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 tentative millage rate of 5.3900 mills is necessary to fund the tentative general City budget. The tentative millage rate represents a 5.55% decrease from the rolled-back rate of 5.7065 mills.

CITY COMMISSION:

Discussion of Resolution 17-23

Citizen Comments related to Resolution 17-23

CITY COMMISSION:

Roll Call vote on motion to Resolution 17-23

- B. Adoption of Resolution Adopting Changes, Revenue Estimates and the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Proposed General City Budget**

CITY ATTORNEY:

[Reading of Resolution 17-24 by title only – if not previously read]

CITY COMMISSION:

Discussion of Resolution 17-24

Citizen Comments related to Resolution 17-24

CITY COMMISSION:

Roll Call vote on motion to Resolution 17-24

- C. Adjournment**