

AGENDA
WALKER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WALKER COUNTY CIVIC CENTER, 10052 HWY 27
ROCK SPRING, GEORGIA 30739

The following constitutes the agenda for the public hearing of the Board of Commissioners of Walker County, Georgia to be held on August 12, 2021 at 8:00 A.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Invocation**
Given by Chairman Shannon Whitfield
- **Pledge**
United States and Georgia Flag
- **Chairman Whitfield will Call to Order the Public Hearing**
Clerk establishes a Quorum is present
- **Public Hearing**
Adoption of a Millage Rate Which Will Be Set at 8.313 Mills in the Unincorporated Areas and 11.963 in the Incorporated Areas
- **Close Public Hearing**
- **Adjourn**



**Walker County Governmental Authority
101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-1437**

**Minutes of the Public Hearing
August 12, 2021 8:00 AM**

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Whitfield called to order the Public Hearing held at Walker County Civic Center, 10052 Hwy 27, Rock Spring, Georgia at 8:00 AM on August 12, 2021.

II. Attendees:

The following were present: Chairman Shannon Whitfield, Commissioner Robert Blakemore, Commissioner Mark Askew, Commissioner Brian Hart, Commissioner Robert Stultz, Public Relations Director Joe Legge, Code Enforcement Officer Gene Whitworth, Board Clerk Whitney Summey and County Clerk Rebecca Wooden. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well. Please see the attached sign in sheet.

III. Public Hearing:

Chairman Whitfield stated this is the first public hearing on the adoption of the millage rate, the second public hearing will be held at Annex III at 6:30 PM tonight and a third will be later this month. Chairman Whitfield stated this will be the lowest millage rate the county has had in the past four years. He said the county has been working to lower the millage rate every year. He said this is a partial rollback but due to the state formula if there are any additional revenues compared to the previous year then it has to be advertised as a tax increase. He added the additional revenues are from sales taxes and the majority of them are from an increase in online sales due to COVID19. He added the 2018 TSPLOST is also a factor in the sales tax. These funds have helped us be able to pave roads without having to use money from the general fund which has helped keep property taxes near the same rate. He stated with the renewal of SPLOST it takes pressure off of property taxes because it gives the county funds for many capital projects. Chairman Whitfield asked if anyone from the public would like to come forward with comments or concerns. Donald Baker came forward and stated he had read that it is a reduction in the millage rate but it is advertised as an increase and it does not make sense. Chairman Whitfield said it is very confusing and you can see there will be less money taken in but part of the millage rate is a rollback

percentage. The rollback percentage will have a little bit more money than last year and it only takes a one dollar increase in any type of revenue to have to advertise a tax increase. He said the county has worked hard the last several years to keep the property taxes consistent and the growth in sales taxes has helped offset inflation. Mr. Baker asked when this millage rate will go into effect. Chairman Whitfield said everything should be approved on this by the end of August and the Schools are working on their millage rate as well. Once everything is approved it will be sent to the Tax Commissioner and they will send out the tax bills on October 1st with this new millage rate. Mr. Baker asked about the statements that were recently sent out and if they were correct. Chairman Whitfield stated when the assessment notices are sent out by the Tax Assessor they use the previous years millage rate which is higher than the new millage rate. He said when the tax bills go out in October they should be less than the assessment notices. Chairman Whitfield asked if there were any further comments or concerns. There was no further discussion.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Whitfield adjourned the public hearing at 8:13AM.



Shannon K. Whitfield
Chairman/CEO
Walker County Georgia



Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Board Clerk, Whitney Summey

Walker County Public Hearing
Walker County Civic Center 8:00 AM

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>08/12/2021</u>	<u>Present/Not Present</u>
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Commissioner Blakemore	Present
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Commissioner Askew	Present
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Chairman Whitfield	Present
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Commissioner Hart	Present
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Commissioner Stultz	Present
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8:00 AM

Recia Lubliner 414 Dogwood Cr. La Fayette

Back Alley brings ‘The Great Gatsby’ to life at Mars Theatre

From Back Alley Productions

Award-winning theatre company Back Alley Productions announces its upcoming production of “The Great Gatsby,” based on F. Scott Fitzgerald’s seminal American novel, at the Mars Theatre. Performances are Aug. 6-15, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. The theatre is at 117 N. Chattanooga St., LaFayette.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.BAPshows.com>, or at the box office 30 minutes before showtime. Seating at the Mars Theatre is first come, first served.

Seating is currently reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so online reservations are encouraged.

Masks are required for entry into the Mars Theatre.

“The Great Gatsby” begins at the onset of the prosperous and exciting Roaring Twenties. Nick Carraway moves to New York



Kaidynce Lepker as The Woman, personifying the deceptive American Dream, stars in the “The Great Gatsby” at the Mars Theatre.

City, hungry for a new life and her strong-willed husband, Tom Buchanan. It’s not long before Nick also begins to learn more about



Parker Hargis as Jay Gatsby and Sierra Jackson as Daisy Buchanan star in “The Great Gatsby.”

his mysterious and generous neighbor, a wealthy man

named Gatsby who seems to have it all.

As Nick and Gatsby formed an unlikely friendship, he learns that Gatsby is a long-lost love of Daisy, who is still married to Tom... and that Gatsby has built up his enormous fortune as part of a plan to win Daisy back at all costs.

Considered to be F. Scott Fitzgerald’s best work, “The Great Gatsby” examines America at the peak of the Jazz Age, exploring what the American Dream truly represents and its ultimate impracticality.

“The Great Gatsby captures so much of the American Spirit, both the inspiring and the bleak,” Director Madison Smith said. “There was such a hunger in the new advanced world of the 1920s to taste all the promises of life: money, love, success and prosperity.”

“After years of death and destruction, the general feeling of that time was that American prosperity had finally been set free.

“Anyone could become anything if they just worked hard enough,” Smith said. “But, from Fitzgerald’s point of view, all these promises were at best evasive, and at worst a dangerous delusion.”

Smith says “The Great Gatsby” has stood the test of time because it appeals to the universal American experience that is stronger today, nearly 100 years later.

“Even today we’re told: if you just work a little harder, reach out your arms just a little further, you can rise out of your circumstances and thrive,” she notes.

“That’s the national ethos that’s driven this country, for better or worse, since the beginning, and the crux of “The Great Gatsby.”

The production is complete with hallmarks of the 1920s, from flappers to the Charleston, drinks and parties, the experience will be transformative.

“The Jazz Age is romantic and tantalizing,” Smith said. “So much possibility, so many people to meet, so much potential. Gatsby represents that idea: someone from less than nothing, overcoming all obstacles to get to where and who he wants. But Fitzgerald was ultimately cynical about these beliefs. He spotlights the American reality of classism, limitations of status and circumstance, and the duality of prosperity and poverty living within the same America.”

The production contains some adult language, violence and other thematic elements that are considered unsuitable for children.

For more information about the show or Back Alley Productions, visit <https://www.BAPshows.com> or call 706-621-2870.

COVID-19 disclaimer

During performances, all audience members will be required to wear facemasks appropriately (covering both the nose and mouth) during their time inside the Mars Theatre, regardless of vaccine status. Back Alley Productions will remain committed to creating the safest possible environment for cast, crew and patrons.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Governing Authority of Walker County, Georgia has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 3.26% in the unincorporated area and 0.54% in the incorporated areas.

All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the Walker County Civic Center, 10052 Hwy 27, Rock Spring, GA on August 12, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. and at Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main St., LaFayette, GA on August 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Time and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main St., LaFayette, GA on August 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 8.313 mills in the unincorporated area and 11.963 in the incorporated areas, an increase of 0.259 mills in the unincorporated area and 0.065 mills in the incorporated areas. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 8.054 mills in the unincorporated area and 11.898 in the incorporated areas. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$125,000 is approximately \$12.43 in the unincorporated area and \$3.12 in the incorporated area and the proposed tax increase for nonhomestead property with a fair market value of \$75,000 is approximately \$7.77 in the unincorporated area and \$1.95 in the incorporated areas.

NOTICE

The Walker County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Walker County Courthouse Annex III at 201 South Main Street, LaFayette, GA on August 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2021 TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

UNINCORPORATED	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Real & Personal	1,004,774,498	1,018,332,049	1,040,384,492	1,052,243,528	1,072,396,512	1,229,341,699
Motor Vehicles	52,994,480	41,373,460	32,972,930	28,334,940	12,239,790	19,535,570
Mobile Homes	12,656,306	12,771,772	12,240,064	12,940,052	14,624,676	15,058,127
Timber - 100%	422,554	812,422	762,345	464,867	492,716	370,864
Heavy Duty Equipment						
Gross Digest	1,070,847,838	1,073,289,703	1,086,359,831	1,093,983,387	1,099,753,694	1,264,306,260
Less M & O Exemptions	169,152,535	182,611,665	190,860,792	196,992,831	189,663,179	209,589,626
Net M & O Digest	901,695,303	890,678,038	895,499,039	896,990,556	910,090,515	1,054,716,634
State Forest Land Assistance Grant Value	0	0	0	0		
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	901,695,303	890,678,038	895,499,039	896,990,556	910,090,515	1,054,716,634
Gross M&O Millage	13.717	15.696	15.966	16.096	16.157	14.970
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	5.879	5.858	6.128	6.274	6.870	6.657
Net M&O Millage Rate	7.838	9.838	9.838	9.822	9.287	8.313
Net Taxes Levied	\$7,067,488	\$8,762,491	\$8,809,920	\$8,810,241	\$8,452,011	\$8,767,859
INCORPORATED	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Real & Personal	437,786,007	435,073,779	449,670,774	462,480,369	478,967,634	503,637,366
Motor Vehicles	10,878,920	8,035,180	5,953,080	4,823,570	1,875,810	2,996,550
Mobile Homes	165,460	105,018	107,903	122,189	142,385	197,195
Timber - 100%	0	0	8,000	8,500	22,775	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gross Digest	448,830,387	443,213,977	455,739,757	467,434,628	481,008,604	506,831,111
Less M & O Exemptions	46,505,318	46,827,089	53,234,941	60,339,478	54,992,743	60,511,875
Net M & O Digest	\$402,325,069	\$396,386,888	\$402,504,816	\$407,095,150	\$426,015,861	\$446,319,236
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Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	2.777	2.567	2.636	2.803	2.882	3.007
Net M&O Millage Rate	10.940	13.129	13.330	13.293	13.275	11.963
Net Taxes Levied	\$4,401,436	\$5,204,163	\$5,365,389	\$5,411,516	\$5,655,361	\$5,339,317
TOTAL COUNTY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total County Value	1,304,020,372	1,287,064,926	1,298,003,855	1,304,085,706	1,336,106,376	1,501,035,870
Total County Taxes Levied	\$11,468,924	\$13,966,654	\$14,175,309	\$14,221,757	\$14,107,372	\$14,107,176
Net Taxes \$ Increase	\$ 2,497,730	\$ 208,655	\$ 46,448	\$ (114,385)	\$ (196)	
Net Taxes % Increase		21.78%	1.49%	0.33%	-0.80%	0.00%

Explore role of sharpshooters in Battle of Chickamauga

From National Park Service

On Saturday, Aug. 7, at 2 p.m., Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park will present a special 90-minute, ranger-led car caravan tour exploring the role of sharpshooters during the Battle of Chickamauga. This program begins at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center.

What was the role of sharpshooters during the Civil War? Americans had long made their ability with rifles a matter of national pride and myth; therefore, when the Civil War erupted, experts on both sides decided that specialized sharpshooter

units would be required in the field. These units, many of which had special training and weapons, considered themselves elite units, though not all were.

Learn more about these units and the men who composed them on this special tour highlighting some of the stories about sharpshooters in the Battle of Chickamauga.

For more information about programs at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at 706-866-9241, the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at 423-821-7786, or visit the park website at www.nps.gov/chch.



Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center

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