

**JULY 16, 2007**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**  
**7:00 PM**

**VISITORS: Sarah Campbell, John Thompson, Lee Coleman, Bob Werner, Roger Alley, Paul & Ann Price, Sam & Suzanne Helfman, Bill Roy, Debbie Graham, Ken Barnard, Chief Bennett, Steven Ray, John Ray, Mary Provost, Kevin Kahl, Jim & Melinda Garver, JoAnn Utt, Robert Gregory, Jean & Elbert Williams, Chris Pittman, Adrian & Mark Bradberry and Wayne Gordon.**

**FULL COUNCIL PRESENT**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME VISITORS**

Mayor Belisle called the Public Hearing to order and welcomed all.

**2. PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

To present and receive comments on a proposed increase in the millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 4%.

**3. COMMENTS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Ferry referred to the 5-year Digest, stating that compared to last year, the total dollars collected will be up 4%. Mayor Belisle then stated that if your property has not be reassessed your taxes are not going up. The Mayor continued that some reasons for the increase in millage are gas and utility.

**4. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

Mark Bradberry of 30 Carriage Lane asked Council to review some percentages that were taken from our website and those of surrounding areas regarding taxes paid and asked why Senoia's was the highest at 34.19; higher than Fayetteville, Newnan and Peachtree City. Mr. Bradberry then asked Council what the higher taxes are paying for as he can only see the new park on Seavy Street but nothing more. Mr. Ferry stated that the proposed millage is 6.1 and he assumed these figures would include along with City, County, fire and school taxes. C. Owens asked Mr. Ferry to get clarification on this number and get back with what it consists of.

Roger Alley of 294 Piedmont Drive stated that no one likes to pay higher taxes but asked that all compare "apples to apples", adding that Peachtree City had a very generous benefactor for their planned community and also has a very good economic base. Mr. Alley then stated that we are a small city and with continued growth, will get to the same point and then you will see the benefit of your tax dollars.

Mr. Kevin Kahl of 20 Carriage Lane asked what are the citizens currently getting as all will eventually be reassessed, adding somewhere you will need to stop with the increases.

Mr. Jim Garver of 390 Pylant Street stated that he understands taxes are not being raised, adding that the other cities mentioned have a lot more income, a higher tax base and higher property values. Mr. Garver then said he is glad his taxes are not increasing with all the growth taking place in Senoia.

Mr. Wayne Gordon of 160 Blue Heron stated that Senoia is burdened with a higher percentage and lower income, suggesting remaining low on taxes for new residents as well as old.

**5. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL**

C. Graham asked if the percentage increase from last year is up approximately 16% why isn't the dollar figure increasing the same and was told by Mr. Ferry that the reassessments and new construction reflect an increase in taxes received but not in the roll back. Mayor Belisle reminded all that the 4% is calculated keeping the same millage as last year and the reason we're staying with the same millage is to not throw away the inflation gain.

**7. ADJOURN**

Mayor Belisle made motion to adjourn the July 16, 2007 Public Hearing & was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Owens. Motion carried unanimously.