

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BRUNSWICK CITY COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023 AT 12:00 P.M.  
1229 NEWCASTLE STREET  
&  
STREAMED LIVE AT THE BELOW WEB ADDRESS**

<https://www.facebook.com/citybwkga>

**PRESENT:** Mayor Pro-Tem Julie Martin, Commissioner John Cason III, Commissioner Felicia Harris, and Commissioner Kendra Rolle

**ABSENT:** Honorable Mayor Cosby Johnson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem Martin - *meeting began at 12:00 p.m.*

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Pro Tem Martin

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison by all in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEARING – FINANCE**

1. City of Brunswick Proposed 2023 Millage Rate. *(R. McDuffie)*

City Manager McDuffie gave an overview of the proposed property tax increase and adoption of the 2023 millage rate. McDuffie stated this public hearing is required by state law O.C.G.A. 48-5-32 to notify the public and provide an opportunity for public input and feedback regarding the action being proposed i.e., “the adoption of the millage rate which governs the city’s taxation”.

City Manager McDuffie reviewed the categories and amounts from the 5-year digest statement; stating the proposed millage rate for 2023 is 13.219, which has been the same rate for the past nine (9) years. She stated the state also requires that the city calculate a rollback millage rate which equates to the millage that the city would have if the city did not have any increase in the digest. City Manager McDuffie stated the digest increased by 39.1 million in added value and 16.8 million in changes.

City Manager McDuffie explained that if millage rate is calculated without these changes, the millage would be 12.079 mils which is 1.14 less than the millage rate being proposed. The millage rate is not changing; it is proposed at 13.219 but the 1.14 increase over the rollback millage has to be reported as an increase in taxes if it is not rolled back.

Because of the difference or increase, the state requires multiple hearings to be conducted to notify the public and review the calculated increase. This represents a 9.44 % in the millage rate.

For a home valued at \$100,000, the difference would be approximately \$43.32 and for a home valued at \$300,000, the difference would be approximately \$136.80.

Following questions and responses:

Mayor Pro Tem Martin opened the floor to anyone wanting to address the commission regarding the

proposed 2023 millage rate.

The following individuals address the commission:

- 1) Allan Rosing, Historic District, asked – “of the 11% increase in revenue what will be allocated towards services and what will be allocated towards wages?  
He also asked what the comparison of millage rate for the city is to other cities in the state.

**PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED** – *meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.*

/s/Julie T. Martin  
Julie T. Martin, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Naomi D. Atkinson  
Naomi D. Atkinson, City Clerk

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BRUNSWICK CITY COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.  
1229 NEWCASTLE STREET  
&  
STREAMED LIVE AT THE BELOW WEB ADDRESS**

<https://www.facebook.com/citybwkga>

**PRESENT:** Honorable Mayor Cosby Johnson, Commissioner John Cason III, Commissioner Felicia Harris, and Commissioner Kendra Rolle

**ABSENT:** Mayor Pro-Tem Julie Martin

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Johnson - *meeting began at 5:30 p.m.*

**PUBLIC HEARING – FINANCE**

1. City of Brunswick Proposed 2023 Millage Rate. (*R. McDuffie*)

City Manager McDuffie gave an overview of the proposed property tax increase and adoption of the 2023 millage rate. McDuffie stated this public hearing is required by state law O.C.G.A. 48-5-32 to notify the public and provide an opportunity for public input and feedback regarding the action being proposed i.e., “the adoption of the millage rate which governs the city’s taxation”.

City Manager McDuffie reviewed the categories and amounts from the 5-year digest statement; stating the proposed millage rate for 2023 is 13.219, which has been the same rate for the past nine (9) years. She stated the state also requires that the city calculate a rollback millage rate which equates to the millage that the city would have if the city did not have any increase in the digest. City Manager McDuffie stated the digest increased by 39.1 million in added value and 16.8 million in changes.

City Manager McDuffie explained that if millage rate is calculated without these changes, the millage would be 12.079 mills which is 1.14 less than the millage rate being proposed. The millage rate is not changing; it is proposed at 13.219 but the 1.14 increase over the rollback millage has to be reported as an increase in taxes if it is not rolled back.

Because of the difference or increase, the state requires multiple hearings to be conducted to notify the public and review the calculated increase. This represents a 9.44 % in the millage rate.

For a home valued at \$100,000, the difference would be approximately \$43.32 and for a home valued at \$300,000, the difference would be approximately \$136.80.

Mayor Johnson opened the floor to anyone wanting to address the commission regarding the proposed 2023 millage rate.

No one came forth to address the commission.

Commissioner Cason made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4 to 0.

**PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED** – *meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.*

/s/Cosby H. Johnson  
Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Naomi D. Atkinson  
Naomi D. Atkinson, City Clerk

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BRUNSWICK CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023  
AT 6:00 P.M.  
1229 NEWCASTLE STREET, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
&**

**STREAMED LIVE AT THE BELOW WEB ADDRESS:**

<https://www.facebook.com/citybwkga>

**PRESENT:** Honorable Mayor Cosby Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem Julie Martin, Commissioner John Cason III, Commissioner Felicia Harris and Commissioner Kendra Rolle

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Johnson ~ *meeting began at 6:00 p.m.*

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Johnson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison by all in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Adoption of August 16, 2023 Regular Scheduled Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to adopt August 16, 2023 agenda; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 1) Devenius Willcox gave an overview of his family history and their contribution to the City of Brunswick, he offered memorabilia to the City to be displayed at Howard Coffin Park.
- 2) Robert Griffin addressed commission regarding Urbana Park Neighborhood homeless people invasion. He questioned why the city is not able to remove the homeless people located at the 1800 block of "G" Street. He asked the Commission to remove the homeless individuals located 1803 "G" Street.
- 3) Anita Collins addressed commission regarding the following: Environmental toxic exposure, amounts of funds city will receive from lead hazard reduction, Healthy Homes and Brownfield grants, Plan for city's clean air, she asked who the city's sustainability Officer was. She inquired what the decommissioning plan for Pinova Plant was. Addressed the conditions of Whispering Pines Apartment Complex. She also inquired when Brad Piazza with Port City will meet with Urbana Park residents regarding 2307 Gloucester Street development. She address derelict properties in Urbana Park, Glynn Avenue trail link at Overlook Park and Codification of Neighborhood Planning Assemblies.

**RECOGNITION(S), PRESENTATION(S), & AWARD(S)**

2. Proclamation Proclaiming the month of September as National Recovery Month.

Mayor Johnson read the above-referenced proclamation in support of National Recovery Month.

**UPDATE**

3. 311 Software update. (*W. Bilancio*)

Information Technology Director Bilancio gave a brief update regarding 311 Software.

Following questions/answers; commission thank Director Bilancio for the update.

**ITEM(S) TO CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL**

4. Consider Approval of July 19, 2023 Work Session and August 2, 2023 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. (*subject to any necessary changes.*) (*N. Atkinson*)

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to approve July 19, 2023 work session minutes and August 2, 2023 regular scheduled meeting minutes; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider Approval of Historic Preservation Fund Grant Agreement. *(J. Hunter)*

Commissioner Cason made a motion to approve the above-referenced agreement; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

**CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

6. Consider Adoption ~ Ordinance 1080 - Amendment to Chapter 28 - Tree Ordinance. *(C. Jones)*

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to adopt the above-referenced ordinance, subject to amendment discussed; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

7. Discussion ~ Amendment to Zoning Ordinance. ~ *(First Reading)* - *(J. Hunter)*

Director of Planning, Development and Codes Hunter gave an overview of the above-referenced ordinance amendment.

Following questions/discussion.

Director Hunter stated he would advertise for a public hearing for the proposed zoning amendments at September 6, 2023 commission meeting.

City Clerk Atkinson to advertise for adoption consideration at the September 6, 2023 commission meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to hold an executive session to discuss litigation and personnel; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to approve the recommendation of City Attorney Corry as it relates to litigation; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

Commissioner Cason made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – *meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.*

/s/Cosby H. Johnson  
Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Naomi D. Atkinson  
Naomi D. Atkinson  
City Clerk

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BRUNSWICK CITY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.  
1229 NEWCASTLE STREET  
&  
STREAMED LIVE AT THE BELOW WEB ADDRESS**

<https://www.facebook.com/citybwkga>

**PRESENT:** Mayor Cosby Johnson - *attended virtually via Zoom*, Mayor Pro-Tem Julie Martin, Commissioner John Cason III, Commissioner Felicia Harris, and Commissioner Kendra Rolle

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem Martin - *meeting began at 6:00 p.m.*

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Pro Tem Martin

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison by all in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEARING – MILLAGE RATE**

1. City of Brunswick Proposed 2023 Millage Rate. (*R. McDuffie*)

City Manager McDuffie gave the third and final overview of the proposed property tax increase and adoption of the 2023 millage rate. City Manager McDuffie stated this public hearing is required by state law O.C.G.A. 48-5-32 to notify the public and provide an opportunity for public input and feedback regarding action proposed i.e., “the adoption of the millage rate which governs the City’s taxation”. City Manager McDuffie reviewed the categories and amounts from the 5-year digest stating the proposed millage rate for 2023 is 13.219, the same rate it has been for the past nine (9) years. City Manager McDuffie stated the state requires the cities to calculate a rollback rate, which equates to the millage that the City would have if the City did not have any increase in the digest. City Manager McDuffie stated the digest increased by 39.1 million in added value and 16.8 million in changes.

City Manager McDuffie explained that if the millage rate is calculated without these changes, the millage would be 12.079 mils which is 1.14 less than the millage being proposed. Although the millage rate is not increasing, the 1.14 increase over the rollback must be reported as an increase in the taxes if it is not rolled back. This represents a 9.44% increase in the millage rate.

For a home valued at \$100,000, the difference would be approximately \$43.32 and for a home valued at \$300,000, the difference would be approximately \$136.80.

City Manager McDuffie ended her presentation addressing the concerns of Mr. Allan Rosing, who spoke during the August 16, 2023, public hearing held at noon, asking why the City’s millage rate was higher than the comparable City’s he reviewed.

City Manager McDuffie stated that one must understand the complexities when comparing millage rates to other communities, such as the value of their digest, the impact of sales tax, and service delivery. City Manager McDuffie ended her presentation stating she will continue to examine the different variables that impact the millage rate.

Following questions and responses:

Mayor Pro Tem Martin opened the floor to anyone wanting to address the Commission regarding the proposed 2023 millage rate.

No one came forth.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ALCOHOL LICENSE** *(A. Brown)*

2.

New Alcohol License			
Name of Business	Business Owner/Manager	Business Address	Permit Type
Bubba Garcia's	Owner: Connor Rankin	201 Gloucester St., Brunswick, GA	On premise consumption of beer, wine and liquor.

Following questions and responses:

Mayor Pro Tem Martin opened the floor to anyone wanting to address the Commission regarding the alcohol license application for Bubba Garcia's.

No one came forth.

Commissioner Cason made a motion to approve the alcohol license application for Bubba Garcia's' seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM(S) TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL**

3. Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2023-15 – Setting of 2023 Millage Rate. *(R. McDuffie)*

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-15 – Setting of the 2023 Millage Rate; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider Approval of Pension Withholding Corrections. *(K. Mills)*

Finance Director Mills gave an overview of the pension withholding process for City employees, stating that 3% of earnings are withheld per pay period beginning on the first payroll in January. Finance Director Mills stated that this did not occur for several employees, and once this error was discovered withholding began immediately.

Finance Director Mills presented the Commission with options to correct the combined unpaid interest totaling less than \$700 for the seven employees.



Commissioner Cason made a motion to follow the direction of the City's Pension Committee attorney Clay Cartwright, forgiving the interest on the under-withholding under de minimis rules; with the City paying interest due on the twenty-four (24) month payback period in the amount of \$625.52; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was not an executive session held during this meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** – *meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.*

/s/Julie T. Martin  
Julie T. Martin, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: /s/ Devone J. Williams  
Devone J. Williams, Assistant City Clerk