



**MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY, July 29, 2019 – 9:00 AM  
CITY HALL**

**PRESENT: Jerry D. Roseberry, Mayor; Council members: George Holt; Jim Windham; Jeff Wearing, Sarah Davis.  
Not present: Mike Ready and David Eady.**

**OTHERS PRESENT: Matt Pepper, City Manager and Connie Middlebrooks, City Clerk.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by the Hon. Jerry D. Roseberry, Mayor.

Mayor Roseberry announced the purpose of the Public Hearing is to review the proposed change in property taxes. Council intends to adopt a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 9.36%. This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 6.622 mills, an increase of 0.607 mills. Citizens whose property experienced an increased in value will pay more in taxes. Mayor Roseberry reminded Council that the City of Oxford extends to its citizens an additional \$10,000 homestead exemption and that only 7% of the general fund comes from property tax revenue.

Councilmember Holt recommended that Council adopt the rollback rate. He stated that the city could not operate on revenue collected by increasing property taxes because the amount is so insignificant.

Mayor Roseberry informed Council that in 10 years the city will see big changes in electric revenue. The revenue accounts for 30% of the general fund. He suggested it would be better to gradually collect tax revenue instead of impacting taxpayers in the future with a substantial increase.

Councilmember Windham stated that electric distribution will never go away completely, the source for electricity will change. He suggested the city start looking into alternative ways to generate revenue that may be lost as a result of decreased distribution. He recommended establishing charging stations on vacant city owned lots such as the lot at Geiger Street and Emory Street or offering a rebate to homeowners who install recharging stations in their homes.

Councilmembers Wearing and Davis agreed the city should be preparing for things to come in the future and that doing so in small increments would appease citizens.

Mayor Roseberry commended the Council on being fiscally responsible when they voted to not participate in the purchase of Plant Vogtle units 3 & 4. In doing so, Council kept the city's debt service low allowing for minimal property tax increases.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Roseberry adjourned the Public Hearing at 9:14 am.

Respectfully Submitted;

Connie Middlebrooks

City Clerk