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NEWS RELEASE

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Press release announcing a proposed property tax increase

AUGUSTA, GA (Aug. 4, 2021) – The Augusta Commission announced on Tuesday, Aug. 3, its intention to increase the 2021 property taxes it will levy this year by 2.62 percent over the rollback millage rate. While the proposed rate is the same rate levied in 2020, since it exceeds the computed rollback rate it is required to be advertised as an increase.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board of tax assessors is required by law to redetermine the value of such property and adjust the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

The rise in homestead and property exemptions in 2021 coupled with the continuing decline in the motor vehicle digest (from TAVT) resulted in a decline in the 2021 digest when reassessments are excluded. The state mandated formula applies the entire amount of reassessment value in the rollback calculation. The intent of the formula is to allow the local government to collect the same amount of tax revenue by applying the lower rate to an increased digest. Application of the reduced (rollback) millage rate produces a reduction in 2021 ad valorem taxes which is well below the level of budgeted tax revenue.

Before the Augusta Commission finalizes the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at:

- Aug. 12 at 10 a.m. Henry Brigham Community Center, 2463 Golden Camp Road
- Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. Warren Road Community Center, 300 Warren Road
- Aug. 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Lee Beard Commission Chambers, Municipal Building, 535 Telfair Street

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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