

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Port Wentworth has tentatively adopted a 2017 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 5.10 percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Port Wentworth City Hall located at 305 South Coastal Highway, Port Wentworth, GA on June 15, 2017 at 11:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Time and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at Port Wentworth City Hall located at 305 South Coastal Highway, Port Wentworth, GA on June 22, 2017 at 7 pm.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 4.571, an increase of 0.337 mills. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 4.234 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$62,500 is \$0.00 (due to the City's \$40,000 Homestead Exemption) and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$75,000 is approximately a \$26 increase.

NOTICE

Millage Rate – 4.571

The City of Port Wentworth does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at Port Wentworth City Hall on Thursday, **June 22, 2017 at 7 pm** and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. 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. **Public Hearings will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 11:30 am and 6:30 pm and on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 7 pm.**

CURRENT 2017 TAX DIGEST AND 5-YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

CITY	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Real & Personal	\$334,342,263	\$348,544,278	\$338,253,603	\$367,234,255	\$308,258,625	\$437,586,659
Motor Vehicles	\$18,057,080	\$18,714,500	\$15,591,870	\$10,025,210	\$7,415,550	\$5,308,800
Mobile Homes	\$959,040	\$1,008,720	\$895,240	\$819,240	\$756,116	\$759,396
Timber -- 100%	\$89,198	\$44,846	\$115,603	\$49,621	\$0	\$0
Heavy Duty Equipment	\$3,498	0	\$13,728	\$8,210	\$0	\$0
Gross Digest	\$353,451,079	\$368,312,344	\$354,870,044	\$378,136,536	\$413,825,297	\$443,654,855
Less M&O Exemptions	\$33,018,572	\$32,951,901	\$27,251,685	\$28,712,705	\$32,089,432	\$42,423,056
NET M&O Digest	\$320,432,507	\$335,360,443	\$327,618,359	\$349,423,831	\$381,735,865	\$401,231,799
Gross M&O Millage	7.528	7.554	8.761	9.153	8.885	8.657
Less Rollbacks	3.131	3.157	4.050	4.582	4.314	4.086
Net M&O Millage	4.397	4.397	4.711	4.571	4.571	4.571
Net Taxes Levied	\$1,408,942	\$1,474,580	\$1,543,410	\$1,597,216	\$1,744,915	\$1,834,031
Net Taxes \$ Increase	-\$47,348	\$65,638	\$68,830	\$53,806	\$147,699	\$89,116
Net Taxes % Increase	-3.25%	4.65%	4.60%	3.86%	9.24%	5.10%

PRESS RELEASE

The Mayor and Council of the City of Port Wentworth today announces its intention to increase the property taxes it will levy this year by 5.10 percentage over the rollback millage rate.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the City. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the City 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 re-determine the value of such property and increase the assessment. This is called reassessment.

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

At the present and the proposed millage rate of 4.571, only reassessed properties could see an increase in property tax. Properties with no reassessments will experience NO city tax increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the following location at the indicated times: Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 11:30 am and 6:00 pm and June 22, 2017 at 7 pm at Port Wentworth City Hall located at 305 South Coastal Highway, Port Wentworth, Georgia.