

Meeting of the City of Sandy Springs City Council – SUMMARY MINUTES

Barfield Conference Room, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference

August 22, 2023 6:00 PM

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The Special Called Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on August 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Rusty Paul, Councilmember John Paulson, Councilmember Melody Kelley, Councilmember Melissa Mular, Councilmember Andrew Bauman, Councilmember Tibby DeJulio, Councilmember Jody Reichel

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. Public Hearing

A. 2023-245 Ad Valorem Tax Rate Public Hearing 3 and Adoption for 2023 Millage Rate

Eden Freeman, City Manager, welcomed City Council, City Staff, and guests to the third of three public hearings and adoption of the 2023 millage rate. The amount the FY 2024 Budget is built on is the same rate that is established in the City Charter of 4.731 mills.

There being no public comment, **Mayor Rusty Paul** closed the public hearing.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to approve the Ad Valorem Tax Rate Public Hearing 3 and Adoption for 2023 Millage Rate.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked are the numbers accurate from the presentation that demonstrates the amount of increase for homes valued at about \$600,000?

Eden Freeman, City Manager said those are general numbers and they are accurate and include the floating homestead. The floating homestead exemption is calculated by Fulton County in a certain way and, we are unable to drill down without getting a specific tax bill from someone.

Councilmember Kelley asked is the City exploring future options?

City Manager Freeman said my goal is to bring a discussion back during the retreat in January of next year. When Fulton County used to give us our millage rate and tax digest, it was adopted the same night the budget was adopted. We now must adopt the budget before we get the certified tax digest which creates a conundrum for us but, we are seeking assistance from our financial advisor to do a robust calculation on what it would look like if there was a desire to change the homestead exemption.

Councilmember Andy Bauman asked if Council wanted a homestead exemption change, would it require local legislation?

City Manager Freeman said that is my understanding.

Councilmember Bauman asked are we planning to bring a consultant to help give us a menu of options and what might be the impact?

City Manager Freeman said I have already contacted a financial advisor and asked for assistance.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio said there was a proposal passed by the legislature this past year for homeowners over the age of 65 to receive an additional homestead exemption but it is only a partial one. For someone like me over age 65, there is savings of about \$100 a year on property taxes but you must refile your homestead exemption. When I went to the Fulton County Annex to refile, it was about a three-hour wait, and I decided \$100 was not worth the wait. **Dan Lee, City Attorney**, is there another exemption that you are aware of?

City Attorney Lee said the state gets a quarter of a mill which is hardly anything. Legislation allows people over age 65 to qualify for that quarter mill paid to the state if it is over \$100.

Councilmember DeJulio said generally we have had an increase in the tax rate because assessments go up every year. In 2007 or 2008 the City did a poll and asked residents if they would rather have that money as a decrease in their property taxes or, an increase in the services of Sandy Springs. It was unanimous that the residents of Sandy Springs wanted the City to keep doing what it was doing.

Vote on the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. 2023-08-16

V. Executive Session – Real Estate & Litigation

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, to recess from regular order and enter executive session for the purposes of real estate and litigation discussion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Passed Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Yeas: John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Jody Reichel, Tibby DeJulio, Andrew Bauman

Nays: None

The Executive Session began at 6:07 p.m.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to adjourn the executive session and return to regular order. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Passed Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Yeas: John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Jody Reichel, Tibby DeJulio, Andrew Bauman

Nays: None

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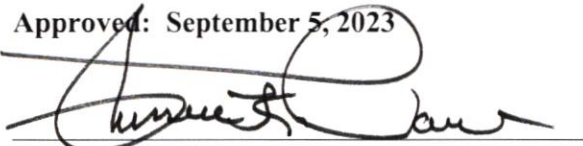
The Executive Session ended at 7:48p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48p.m.

Approved: September 5, 2023



Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Raquel D. González, City Clerk