

A Public Hearing Meeting was held by Ringgold, Georgia City Council on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Ringgold City Hall with City Manager, Mark Vaughn presiding..

- ① At 11:00 a.m. Mark Vaughn, City Manager called the meeting to order for the Public Hearing.

Adopt Millage Rate:

City Manager, Mark Vaughn, stated the proposed millage rate is 2.445 the rollback millage rate is 2.330 that is a 4.97% increase. The current millage rate that was adopted last year is 2.364. The reason the Mayor and Council have proposed the 4.97% increase is because using 2022's cost of services expenses, 2023 saw an 11% increase, that is \$349,000 approximately. In 2024 there was another 8% increase on top of that which was \$281,000.00, that is over a \$600,000 increase from a property tax standpoint has not been provided from an organic growth standpoint. You are looking at around \$150,000.00 organic growth in those two years.

Mark Higgs, 192 Ridge Street, Ringgold, GA spoke. He asked what the approximately 5% increase would be to property tax. City Manager, Mark Vaughn, stated he had a spreadsheet that he could find the assessed value of his home and show what it would be with the rollback rate. He informed Mark that he could show him that after the meeting. He asked what would it be for a \$300,000.00 home. Mark Vaughn stated that the average value of a home right now \$287,000.00 there would be an increase of \$12.00 per year.

Steve Wofford, 340 Depot Street, Ringgold, GA asked why city residents are penalized by having to pay county taxes as well. He stated that the county doesn't have to pay city taxes. Mark Vaughn stated he needed to take that up with the county. Councilmember Earl Henderson stated that we also use not only city streets, we also use county road as well. City Manager, Mark Vaughn added that we use Catoosa County's fire services, emergency management services, sheriffs office, transit services, so there are services that the city tried not to duplicate that the city and the county provide to all citizens. Mr. Wofford stated that there isn't a county road between his house and Nashville St. He said we have city streets and people in the county drive on our city streets but they don't pay to use those. He said they should have to get a permit or something to drive on the city streets..just something to think about. He said we could charge a wheel tax and they would never know the difference. Just add it on the people's county taxes and that would be more revenue for the city.

There being no further comments, City Manager, Mark Vaughn, stated there would be another meeting tonight at 6:00 p.m. and another meeting on August 25 at 7:00 at the regular council meeting, and that is when adoption can take place. City Manager, Mark Vaughn, closed the Public Hearing meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Nick Millwood, Mayor

Kelly Bomar, Mayor Pro-Tem

Jake Haynes, Councilmember

Earl Henderson, Councilmember

Rhonda Swaney, Councilmember

Sara Clark, Councilmember

Mark Vaughn, City Manager

Nicki Lundeen, City Clerk