

MINUTES

Livingston Parish Finance Committee September 19, 2024

Pursuant to notice duly posted in the public lobby of the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, the Livingston Parish Finance Committee met on Thursday, September 19th, 2024, at the hour of five – fifteen (5:15) p.m. with the following members present:

John Mangus – Chair
Lonnie Watts
Joseph Erdey
Ricky Goff

Also Present: Mickey McMorris, Finance Director

The Chair started with a prayer and the Pledge.

The Chair called the meeting to order and called roll.

The Chair addressed agenda item:

6. New Business:

a. Discussion of Millage Rates – Mickey McMorris

The Chair, John Mangus, explained we have for different Millage rates that the Parish collects from for ad valorem tax, which is property taxes. Mr. Mangus then introduced Mr. Mickey McMorris to discuss the different Millage rates for this year.

Mr. McMorris, Finance Director, explained that the Parish has four millages that fall under our authority: Parish Alimony (inside municipalities) with a maximum millage rate at 1.16, Parish Alimony (outside municipalities) with a maximum millage rate at 2.32, Health Unit with a maximum millage rate at 2.5, and the Parish Road Tax with a maximum millage rate at 5. The new assessment of the millage that was provided by the Legislative Auditor shows that the millages rates now are lower than the maximum they are allowed to be.

Councilman Ricky Goff believes that it is prudent for the Council to send their recommendations on each individual item, whether it is to move it up to the max or not. He then explains that the Health Unit is millage that he is really wanting to discuss. He states that is at a maximum at 2.5 right now, with it being on the ballot in November to move it down to 2.0 mills. Mr. Goff spoke to Mr. McMorris about the surplus that the Health Unit has, and it is his recommendation to set the millage at 1.5 mills. Mr. Goff then asked Mr. Jeff Taylor, Parish Assessor, to come to the podium.

Mr. Goff asked if they set this millage rate lower at 2.0 and adopt it, would that become the new maximum? Mr. Taylor stated that once that millage rate is established that will become the new maximum that first year, and you are able to lower it the second year after it passes. Mr. Taylor explains that a few years ago they tried to pass a law where you did not have to go to your maximum, but your maximum was set forever, and you could continue to lower your millage every year for 50 years, but it did not pass.

Mr. Mangus wanted Mr. McMorris to explain what “alimony” meant in the millages. Mr. McMorris explained that it is from the Constitution, and it helps pay unfunded mandates such as the Corner’s Office, DA’s Office, and Registrar of Voters Office.

A motion was made by Ricky Goff and seconded by Lonnie Watts to send this item with a positive recommendation to the Council.

The Chair asked if there was any other business to discuss.

Having no other business to come before the committee, it was moved and agreed that the Livingston Parish Finance Committee adjourn.

MOTION was made by Lonnie Watts and seconded by Ricky Goff; the meeting was adjourned.

1s/ Raven Watts

Raven Watts, Deputy Clerk

1s/ John Mangus

John Mangus, Chair