



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Linda Nabers, Finance Director
Date: July 13, 2020
Subject: **Public Hearing and Resolution Establishing the 2020 Ad Valorem Tax Rate**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Public Hearing and Resolution to establish the 2020 Ad Valorem Tax Rate.

BACKGROUND

The proposed millage rate is a levy of 2.74 mills or \$2.74 for every \$1,000 of the assessed value of property (about 40% of the fair market value.) This rate applies to both real property and personal property for businesses.

One public hearing, one advertisement in the Crier, a press release, and posting to our website are all required to adopt the proposed millage rate. Staff has addressed each of these required steps so the City will be in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 48-1-9 Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Collection of the ad valorem taxes will contribute to General Fund revenues for the general operations of the City including police, public works, parks, community development, and administration; as well as capital projects.

This year's digest projects a 2% decrease in revenue over the prior year. DeKalb County lost a court case in late 2019 and the ruling mandated that the values were reset to a lower property valuation. Due to the assessment freeze on homestead property, most of the decrease is for commercial property. No one owning a home when Dunwoody incorporated is paying more for the same property as they did in 2009 with this credit. Also, no one who purchased since 2009 is paying more tax than when they acquired their homestead, except in cases where the property was improved. Differences from the budget in property tax revenues will be combined with other variances and subsequently allocated by Council through the normal budgetary process.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Staff recommends adoption of the resolution establishing the 2020 Ad Valorem Tax rate.

NOTICE

The City Council of The City of Dunwoody does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Dunwoody City Hall on July 13, 2020 at 6:00 pm. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 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. With the nature of the pandemic, this meeting may be handled virtually. If so, that information will be posted in the regular meeting agenda for that night.

CURRENT 2020 TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

COUNTY WIDE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Real & Personal	3,003,185,402	3,259,290,161	3,512,165,618	3,908,290,585	4,027,435,240	4,082,288,143
Motor Vehicles	69,585,460	50,026,160	42,877,420	24,293,260	18,153,600	13,510,350
Mobile Homes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	7,438	0	0
Gross Digest	3,072,770,862	3,309,316,321	3,555,043,038	3,932,591,283	4,045,588,840	4,095,798,493
Less M& O Exemptions	732,697,792	742,551,090	794,802,211	845,171,410	882,030,465	1,001,528,131
Net M & O Digest	2,340,073,070	2,566,765,231	2,760,240,827	3,087,419,873	3,163,558,375	3,094,270,362
State Forest Land Assistance Grant Value	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	2,340,073,070	2,566,765,231	2,760,240,827	3,087,419,873	3,163,558,375	3,094,270,362
Gross M&O Millage	2.740	2.740	2.740	2.740	2.740	2.740
Less Rollback (LOST)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Net M&O Millage	2.740	2.740	2.740	2.740	2.740	2.740
Total County Taxes Levied	\$6,411,800	\$7,032,937	\$7,563,060	\$8,459,530	\$8,668,150	\$8,478,301
Net Taxes \$ Increase		\$621,137	\$530,123	\$896,471	\$208,619	-\$189,849
Net Taxes % Increase		9.69%	7.54%	11.85%	2.47%	-2.19%

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
DUNWOODY, GEORGIA TO FIX THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE OF THE
CITY OF DUNWOODY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the City of Dunwoody is charged with operating and maintaining City Government and pursuant to the Charter of the City of Dunwoody to provide for the assessment of ad valorem property taxes on all real and personal property subject to ad valorem taxation; and

WHEREAS, the millage rate set by the City of Dunwoody for fiscal year 2019 was 2.74 mills; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dunwoody has approved a contract with the Tax Commissioner of DeKalb County, Georgia to serve as Tax Collector for the City for the collection of ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, due to the decrease in the Tax Digest for properties within the boundaries of the City of Dunwoody, the City's anticipated millage rate will remain the same; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has properly given notice, and held a public hearing, in accordance with the law of the State of Georgia, on July 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving relevant evidence, testimony, and public comment concerning the proposed millage rate for ad valorem property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council, after hearing and after duly considering all such relevant evidence, testimony and public comment, has determined that it is in the best interest of, and necessary to meet the expenses and obligations of, the City of Dunwoody to set a levy in the amount of 2.74 mills on each \$1,000 of taxable value for all property subject to ad valorem taxation by the City.

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES, as follows:

SECTION 1: The ad valorem tax at the rate for the City of Dunwoody, Georgia for the 2020 fiscal year on property subject to ad valorem taxation by the City, is hereby fixed at 2.74 mills on each \$1,000 of taxable value or any part thereof of the value of all real and personal property which under the Laws of this State is subject to taxation within the corporate limits of the City for this purpose. Said millage rate is hereby levied for general government purposes.

SECTION 2: Pursuant to the approved contract with the Tax Commissioner of DeKalb County the billing date and due date for ad valorem taxes for the City shall be the same as those for DeKalb County.

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY**

ORDINANCE 2019-07-XX

SECTION 3: The Tax Commissioner of DeKalb County or other designated tax collector is hereby authorized to bill and collect ad valorem taxes for the City of Dunwoody for fiscal year 2020 based on the millage rate set herein and to take, on behalf of the City, such actions authorized by the approved contract with the Tax Commissioner and State of Georgia law as may be necessary for this process.

SECTION 4: This resolution hereby repeals any and all conflicting resolutions.

SECTION 5: This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the City Council.

SO RESOLVED, this 13th day of July, 2020.

Approved:

Lynn P. Deutsch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk
(Seal)

City Attorney