

AGENDA

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street
LaFayette, Georgia 30728

Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020
Time: 6:00 PM
Call to Order: Commissioner Whitfield will call the meeting to order
Invocation: Given by Commissioner Shannon Whitfield
Pledge: United States Flag
Pledge: Georgia Flag

Open of the Regular Meeting

Minutes: Approval of the minutes from the Public Hearing and the Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting held on July 23, 2020

New Business:

- I. Resolution R-018-20 to Set Walker County's Millage Rate at 9.287 mills in the Unincorporated areas and 13.275 in the Incorporated areas for Maintenance and Operation
- II. Resolution R-019-20 To Adopt a Moratorium on the Acceptance of Permit Applications Relating to Residential use of Cargo Container Homes and Tiny Houses
- III. Monthly Stats for July

Adjournment: Commissioner Whitfield will adjourn the meeting

Open Discussion: The business on the Agenda being completed, Commissioner Whitfield will open the floor for general discussion related to Walker County. Speakers are asked to limit their questions and comments to 5 minutes and keep topics related to county business.

The next regular scheduled Commissioner's Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM.



Walker County Governmental Authority
Office of the Commissioner
101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-1437
Minutes of the Scheduled Public Hearing
July 23, 2020

I. Call to order

Commissioner Whitfield called to order the Public Hearing held at Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street, LaFayette, Georgia at 6:05 PM on July 23, 2020.

II. Attendees

The following persons were present: Commissioner Shannon Whitfield, Planning & Zoning Director David Brown, Public Relations Director Joe Legge, Planning Commission Board Chairman Phillip Cantrell and County Clerk Rebecca Wooden. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well, please see the attached sign in sheet.

III. Invocation:

Given by Commissioner Shannon Whitfield

IV. Pledge:

United States Flag

V. Pledge:

Georgia Flag

VI. Open of Public Hearing:

- I. Commissioner Whitfield reviewed the request by Rising Sun Ridge LLC requesting a conditional use variance for property located at 0 Hwy 157 Rising Fawn, GA. 30738. Tax map & parcel number 0-237-016 & 0-237-017. Commissioner Whitfield asked if anyone was in opposition, there was no one. Commissioner Whitfield asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor, and Mr. Rodney Bridges came forward to thank everyone so he can hopefully move forward.
- II. Kriskeldra LTD. Inc (Kellie Iskander) requests a conditional use variance for property located at 909 LaFayette Road Rossville, GA. 30741. Tax map & parcel number 0-206-289. Commissioner Whitfield asked if anyone was in opposition, there was no one. Commissioner

Whitfield asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor and there was no one.

- III. Larry W. Jackson requests a conditional use variance for property located at 0 E. Hwy 136 LaFayette, GA. 30728. Tax map & parcel number 0-488-1-054C. Commissioner Whitfield asked if anyone was in opposition and Mr. Johnny Stephens Sr. came forward to provide information on the building that had been empty, abandoned for over ten years and with no power and is appears to be industrial. Commissioner Whitfield asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor and Mr. Larry Jackson came forward. He explained that he purchased this property thinking it was commercial and would like to use it as small maintenance or storage. Everything would be inside and it is not his intention to make the property look terrible. Mr. Ben Bradford came forward as representing Mr. Larry Jackson. Mr. Bradford stated the property was obviously commercial. This building was there in 1992 when zoning began and was non-conforming until abandoned. It has never stopped being commercial. Mr. Don Hughes, neighbor came forward and asked if it's zoned residential. Andrew Edmondson asked if it was the blue building with the green roof and it is. Mr. Edmondson stated that he had always thought this was a business.

VII. Adjournment: The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:22 PM

VIII. Public Comment

{Audio Recording of Public Hearing and comments are on file in Commissioner's Office – 20-07-23}

IX. Commissioner Comments

{Audio Recording of Public Hearing and comments are on file in Commissioner's Office – 20-07-23}

Minutes approved by:

Shannon K. Whitfield
Sole Commissioner
Walker County Georgia

Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Clerk, Rebecca Wooden



Walker County Governmental Authority
Office of the Commissioner
101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-1437
Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting
July 23, 2020

I. Call to order

Commissioner Whitfield called to order the Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting held at Annex III, 201 S. Main Street, Lafayette, Georgia at 6:22 PM on July 23, 2020.

II. Attendees:

The following persons were present: Commissioner Shannon Whitfield, Planning and Zoning Director David Brown, Public Relations Director Joe Legge, Planning Commission Board Chairman Phillip Cantrell, County Clerk Rebecca Wooden. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well, please see the attached sign in sheet.

III. New Business

1. Commissioner Whitfield welcomed everyone and read Resolution R-017-20, Extending the Waiver of Certain Penalties and Interest Associated with the Walker County Business Code. He signed and adopted Resolution R-017-20.
2. Commissioner Whitfield discussed Purchase Order 2020-00001362 to Chattanooga Ford Tractor for the purchase of a new 2019 New Holland Powerstar 90 Tiger TSR60 Cutter for the Road Department. . We have two additional tractors that we ordered back in February. There were supposed to be in here in April, the 1st of May at the very latest, which now turns into the very latest the end of August. And so we are still waiting on those, but those have been delayed due to manufacturers shut downs, again to the COVID-19 part, supply issues, supply chain issues. So it's been an ongoing hurdle and the manufacturer has expressed their sincere apology over and over but it's just the situation that we're in. When I came into office, we inherited a lot of old outdated equipment. And as we've had the money, we have been gradually replacing equipment. We do have these funds in our budget and we are paying cash for this upon delivery. So we're not taking on any debt, financing or any leasing. This is strictly a cash purchase at time

of delivery to give us more equipment in the County to diminish the roadsides.

3. Commissioner Whitfield explained for our record earlier today at the commissioner's office, we swore in some individuals into service. Mitchell Moore was sworn in as the Chief of the Walker County Police. And Scott Forrest was sworn in as our new Fire Inspector Fire investigator. And Jeff Parker was also sworn in as the Assistant Chief for the Walker County Police Department. Those will be entered into the minutes. And again, we did those at our office today. We are making it part of the record, but that kept those three individuals from being here, taken up your seats. So we wouldn't limit other citizens from attending the meeting tonight. Janice Williams came forward with a question asking why Walker County needs a Police Department. Commissioner Whitfield explained we did only use it for code enforcement after reviewing that department, we have restructured somewhat. We have changed their vehicles, changed their uniforms, and changed the whole operation of that department. But if we totally sunset with post, totally take it down and totally disband it, then the County can never ever get that back. And so as a Sole Commissioner and not knowing what the future holds, I made the decision just to deactivate the daily function, but not deactivate the administrative functions. We have to follow with the post certification. And so therefore in the future, if the board, any board of commissioners going forward decides that they want to reactivate any job descriptions or daily activity of that County police, they can do so but at this time we're not using that as a County Police out doing any type of enforcement, the Sheriff's department and the city police take care of those functions and state patrol and all of those type things. And so now those individuals that were doing code enforcement have all been reassigned to Walker County Code Enforcement. They're the ones that were mandated to turn their badges in, and they're not operating as County Police. So that's why we have taken these other individuals that didn't even work in code enforcement, but they're mandated officers. They functioned in other roles and responsibility of the County. And so to keep our administrative responsibilities with post, we are handling that from a paperwork side so we don't lose the credentials if we ever need to reactivate.
4. Commissioner Whitfield reviewed the request from Rising Sun Ridge LLC requesting a conditional use variance for property located at 0 Hwy 157 Rising Fawn, GA. 30738. Tax map & parcel number 0-237-016 & 0-237-017 asking Chairman Cantrell to explain. Chairman Cantrell explained that Mr. Bridges came to the Planning Commission eight or nine months ago regarding Yurts, which are more less glorified tents. There are many rules to follow to be permitted and bring back to us. Once met this should be a nice rental on Lookout Mountain. Commissioner Whitfield approved with the recommendation from the planning and zoning, an approval of roads, yurts and bath house, contingent upon approval from Environmental Health, Fire Department and Soil Erosion. I'm going to go ahead and accept the recommendation of approval on this and grant this request at this time with these with these conditions.

5. Commissioner Whitfield reviewed the request from Kriskeldra LTD. Inc (Kellie Iskander) requests a conditional use variance for property located at 909 LaFayette Road Rossville, GA. 30741. Tax map & parcel number 0-206-289 and asked Chairman Cantrell to provide information. Chairman Cantrell explained this piece of property is zoned C-1 commercial and it was actually a doctor's office for years. They wanted to buy this property and make it into a music area, have a music store there and be able to give lessons to kids and adults. We couldn't find anything wrong with the request. There's parking on the side and the back of the building and the planning commission couldn't see anything wrong with it since that's what the building had been used as commercial for years. Commissioner Whitfield approved this one with the conditions that have been stated that no one used the back entrance of the property. There were some concerns by one resident of traffic and kids and stuff on the back of that property. So I'm approving with these conditions.
6. Commissioner Whitfield reviewed the request of Larry W. Jackson requesting a conditional use variance for property located at 0 E. Hwy 136 LaFayette, GA. 30728. Tax map & parcel number 0-488-1-054C and asked Chairman Cantrell to provide any information. Mr. Cantrell explained that Mr. Jackson came to the board and requested to use this building. It has been R-3 for years and so we approved as submitted with the understanding that everything would be inside. Commissioner Whitfield approved with Planning Commission's recommendation.
7. Commissioner Whitfield explained the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Subgrant Award, Project Name: Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant, Subgrant Number Y-21-8-026 had been ongoing for years and this is paperwork to continue. This is a federal grant where there are funds that come and pass through Walker County for a juvenile justice program that's been in operation in Walker County for many years. This is a one hundred percent grant. There are zero matching funds on the County, the federal grants for \$142,843. So this again is not new. It's ongoing and is just the annual renewal based off of the grant period of July 1, 2020 through June 30th of 2021, which is the federal government's physical business year, this is just a continuation. Again, we did not have the staff members for the grant recipient to be here tonight, to speak on this we have in the past, but they they've done a great job and continue to be awarded this program. If they didn't do things by the book and handle all their documentation and follow the program guidelines and get results, the federal government would pull the funding from this program. So this is a good program to help our juvenile that are going through challenges in their life and have come across with the justice system. This is to try to help get these young people back on the right feet. And it's quite an honor for Walker County to be a recipient of over \$142,000 in federal funds to help with that project.

IV. **Adjournment:** The Regular Scheduled meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM

VIII. Public Comment

{Audio Recording of Regular Scheduled meeting and comments are on file in Commissioner's Office – 20-07-23}

IX. Commissioner Comments

{Audio Recording of Regular Scheduled meeting comments are on file in Commissioner's Office – 20-07-23}

Minutes approved by:

Shannon K. Whitfield
Sole Commissioner
Walker County Georgia

Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Clerk, Rebecca Wooden



RESOLUTION R-018-20

WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA 2020 TAX LEVY

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA AND IT APPEARING THAT THE TOTAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO LEVY FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION AFTER ALLOWANCE FOR THE EXEMPT DEDUCTIONS IS 9.287 FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF WALKER COUNTY AND 13.275 FOR THE INCORPORATED AREA OF WALKER COUNTY, I, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY ELECTED, HEREBY LEVY TAXES AND FIX RATES AS FOLLOWS:

<u>DESCRIPTIONS</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>		<u>FINAL DIGEST</u>	
	<u>MIL RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>MIL RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
UNINCORPORATED				
GROSS	16.157	14,723,425	16.157	14,723,425
INSURANCE ROLLBACK	-3.988	(3,634,153)	-3.988	(3,634,153)
SALES TAX ROLLBACK	-2.882	(2,626,287)	-2.882	(2,626,287)
NET	9.287	8,462,985	9.287	8,462,985
INCORPORATED				
GROSS	16.157	6,919,428	16.157	6,919,428
SALES TAX ROLLBACK	-2.882	(1,234,251)	-2.882	(1,234,251)
NET	13.275	5,685,177	13.275	5,685,177

SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 13TH day of August, 2020

ATTEST:

WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

REBECCA WOODEN, County Clerk

SHANNON K. WHITFIELD, Sole Commissioner

PT-32.1 - Computation of MILLAGE RATE ROLLBACK AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES - 2020

COUNTY: **WALKER** TAXING JURISDICTION: **COUNTY UNINCORPORATED**

ENTER VALUES AND MILLAGE RATES FOR THE APPLICABLE TAX YEARS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED BOXES BELOW

DESCRIPTION	2019 DIGEST	REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING REAL PROP	OTHER CHANGES TO TAXABLE DIGEST	2020 DIGEST
REAL	963,405,795	1,189,574	15,485,927	980,081,296
PERSONAL	88,841,974		3,472,844	92,314,818
MOTOR VEHICLES	28,334,940		(16,095,150)	12,239,790
MOBILE HOMES	12,940,052		1,684,624	14,624,676
TIMBER -100%	464,867		27,849	492,716
HEAVY DUTY EQUIP			0	
GROSS DIGEST	1,093,987,628	1,189,574	4,576,094	1,099,753,296
EXEMPTIONS	202,459,933		(13,978,870)	188,481,063
NET DIGEST	891,527,695	1,189,574	18,554,964	911,272,233
	(PYD)	(RVA)	(NAG)	(CYD)
2019 MILLAGE RATE:	9.822		2020 MILLAGE RATE:	9.287

CALCULATION OF ROLLBACK RATE

DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA
2019 Net Digest	PYD	891,527,695	
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	1,189,574	
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	18,554,964	
2020 Net Digest	CYD	911,272,233	(PYD+RVA+NAG)
2019 Millage Rate	PYM	9.822	PYM
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	0.013	(RVA/CYD) * PYM
Rollback Millage Rate for 2020	RR - ROLLBACK RATE	9.809	PYM - ME

CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

If the 2020 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds Rollback Millage Rate computed above, this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c) (2)	Rollback Millage Rate	9.809
	2020 Millage Rate	9.287
	Percentage Tax Increase	-5.32%

CERTIFICATIONS

I hereby certify that the amount indicated above is an accurate accounting of the total net assessed value added by the reassessment of existing real property for the tax year for which this rollback millage rate is being computed.

Buddy Chapman _____ 8-4-2020
 Chairman, Board of Tax Assessors Date

I hereby certify that the values shown above are an accurate representation of the digest values and exemption amounts for the applicable tax years.

Carolyn W Walker _____ 8-4-2020
 Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct computation of the rollback millage rate in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1 for the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2020 and that the final millage rate set by the authority of this taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2020 is _____

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH BELOW THAT APPLIES TO THIS TAXING JURISDICTION

If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2020 exceeds the rollback rate, I certify that the required advertisements, notices, and public hearings have been conducted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1 as evidenced by the attached copies of the published "five year history and current digest" advertisement and the "Notice of Intent to Increase Taxes" showing the times and places when and where the required public hearings were held, and a copy of the press release provided to the local media.

If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2020 does not exceed the rollback rate, I certify that the required "five year history and current digest" advertisement has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 as evidenced by the attached copy of such advertised report.

 Responsible Party Title Date

PT-32.1 - Computation of MILLAGE RATE ROLLBACK AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES - 2020

COUNTY: **WALKER** TAXING JURISDICTION: **COUNTY INCORPORATED**

ENTER VALUES AND MILLAGE RATES FOR THE APPLICABLE TAX YEARS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED BOXES BELOW

DESCRIPTION	2019 DIGEST	REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING REAL PROP	OTHER CHANGES TO TAXABLE DIGEST	2020 DIGEST
REAL	325,675,766	581,181	5,925,362	332,182,309
PERSONAL	136,804,603		9,980,722	146,785,325
MOTOR VEHICLES	4,823,570		(2,947,760)	1,875,810
MOBILE HOMES	122,189		20,196	142,385
TIMBER -100%	8,500		14,275	22,775
HEAVY DUTY EQUIP			0	
GROSS DIGEST	467,434,628	581,181	12,992,795	481,008,604
EXEMPTIONS	60,255,603		(7,508,938)	52,746,665
NET DIGEST	407,179,025	581,181	20,501,733	428,261,939
	(PYD)	(RVA)	(NAG)	(CYD)
2019 MILLAGE RATE:	13.293		2020 MILLAGE RATE:	13.275

CALCULATION OF ROLLBACK RATE

DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA
2019 Net Digest	PYD	407,179,025	
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	581,181	
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	20,501,733	
2020 Net Digest	CYD	428,261,939	(PYD+RVA+NAG)
2019 Millage Rate	PYM	13.293	PYM
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	0.018	(RVA/CYD) * PYM
Rollback Millage Rate for 2020	RR - ROLLBACK RATE	13.275	PYM - ME

CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

If the 2020 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds Rollback Millage Rate computed above, this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c) (2)	Rollback Millage Rate	13.275
	2020 Millage Rate	13.275
	Percentage Tax Increase	0.00%

CERTIFICATIONS

I hereby certify that the amount indicated above is an accurate accounting of the total net assessed value added by the reassessment of existing real property for the tax year for which this rollback millage rate is being computed.

Buddy Chapman

 Chairman, Board of Tax Assessors

8-4-2020

 Date

I hereby certify that the values shown above are an accurate representation of the digest values and exemption amounts for the applicable tax years.

Carolyn W Walker

 Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner

8-4-2020

 Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct computation of the rollback millage rate in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1 for the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2020 and that the final millage rate set by the authority of this taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2020 is _____

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH BELOW THAT APPLIES TO THIS TAXING JURISDICTION

If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2020 exceeds the rollback rate, I certify that the required advertisements, notices, and public hearings have been conducted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1 as evidenced by the attached copies of the published "five year history and current digest" advertisement and the "Notice of Intent to Increase Taxes" showing the times and places when and where the required public hearings were held, and a copy of the press release provided to the local media.

If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2020 does not exceed the rollback rate, I certify that the required "five year history and current digest" advertisement has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 as evidenced by the attached copy of such advertised report.

 Responsible Party Title Date

NOTICE

The Walker County Commissioner does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Walker County Courthouse Annex III at 201 South Main Street, LaFayette, GA on August 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. 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.

CURRENT 2020 TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
UNINCORPORATED						
Real & Personal	961,941,749	1,004,774,498	1,018,332,049	1,040,384,492	1,052,243,528	1,072,396,114
Motor Vehicles	68,887,190	52,994,480	41,373,460	32,972,930	28,334,940	12,239,790
Mobile Homes	12,968,613	12,656,306	12,771,772	12,240,064	12,940,052	14,624,676
Timber - 100%	472,005	422,554	812,422	762,345	464,867	492,716
Heavy Duty Equipment						
Gross Digest	1,044,269,557	1,070,847,838	1,073,289,703	1,086,359,831	1,093,983,387	1,099,753,296
Less M & O Exemptions	154,919,162	169,152,535	182,611,665	190,860,792	196,992,831	188,481,063
Net M & O Digest	889,350,395	901,695,303	890,678,038	895,499,039	896,990,556	911,272,233
State Forest Land Assistance Grant Value	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	889,350,395	901,695,303	890,678,038	895,499,039	896,990,556	911,272,233
Gross M&O Millage	14.380	13.717	15.696	15.966	16.096	16.157
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	5.788	5.879	5.858	6.128	6.274	6.870
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.592	7.838	9.838	9.838	9.822	9.287
Net Taxes Levied	\$7,641,299	\$7,067,488	\$8,762,491	\$8,809,920	\$8,810,241	\$8,462,985
INCORPORATED						
Real & Personal	411,155,336	437,786,007	435,073,779	449,670,774	462,480,369	478,967,634
Motor Vehicles	15,167,880	10,878,920	8,035,180	5,953,080	4,823,570	1,875,810
Mobile Homes	146,420	165,460	105,018	107,903	122,189	142,385
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	8,000	8,500	22,775
Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gross Digest	426,469,636	448,830,387	443,213,977	455,739,757	467,434,628	481,008,604
Less M & O Exemptions	44,414,091	46,505,318	46,827,089	53,234,941	60,339,478	52,746,665
Net M & O Digest	\$382,055,545	\$402,325,069	\$396,386,888	\$402,504,816	\$407,095,150	\$428,261,939
State Forest Land Assistance Grant Value						
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	382,055,545	402,325,069	396,386,888	402,504,816	407,095,150	428,261,939
Gross M&O Millage	14.380	13.717	15.696	15.966	16.096	16.157
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	2.895	2.777	2.567	2.636	2.803	2.882
Net M&O Millage Rate	11.485	10.940	13.129	13.330	13.293	13.275
Net Taxes Levied	\$4,387,908	\$4,401,436	\$5,204,163	\$5,365,389	\$5,411,516	\$5,685,177
TOTAL COUNTY						
Total County Value	1,271,405,940	1,304,020,372	1,287,064,926	1,298,003,855	1,304,085,706	1,339,534,172
Total County Taxes Levied	\$12,029,207	\$11,468,924	\$13,966,654	\$14,175,309	\$14,221,757	\$14,148,162
Net Taxes \$ Increase		\$ (560,282)	\$ 2,497,730	\$ 208,655	\$ 46,448	\$ (73,595)
Net Taxes % Increase		-4.66%	21.78%	1.49%	0.33%	-0.52%

Rome man charged with multiple NWGA robberies

The rash of hold-ups targeted convenience stores and pharmacies.

By John Bailey
jbailey@rwf.com

An investigation into nine armed robberies locally, as well as others including in Carroll and Walker counties, culminated in the arrest of a Rome inmate. Anthony Lavell Williams, 26, was arrested at his home at 309B Riess St. on July 22 by a multi-jurisdictional task force including the Rome Police Department and Georgia

Bureau of Investigation. An investigation by Rome police alongside the FBI and FBI turned up evidence that Williams had robbed at least nine stores in Floyd County between December 2019 and April 3 and then moved on to other cities. Assistant RPD Police Chief Debbie Burnett said. Williams is also facing at



Anthony Lavell Williams Jr.

least one armed robbery charge in Carroll County and has warrants for his arrest in Fort Oglethorpe. He is suspected of robbing at least one CVS store and stealing prescription medications. Burnett said. "In each of the robberies there was a consistent description of the suspect," Burnett said. "He always wore a hoodie with a mask and we

had the same description of the gun, height, weight and bushy eyebrows." Williams is accused of robbing the Dollar General Store at 1605 N. Broad St. on Dec. 12, 2019; the Citygro at 1901 N. Broad St. on Dec. 21, 2019; the Dollar General Store at 25 Central Plaza on Dec. 29, 2019; the Dollar General Store at 910 N. Broad St. on Jan. 4; the Circle K at 2401 Garden Lakes Blvd. on Jan. 4; the North Broad Food Mart

at 1416 N. Broad St. on Jan. 9; the Dollar General Store at 1100 N. Fifth Ave. on Jan. 11; the Dollar General Store at 1804 Redmond Circle on Jan. 24; and the CVS at 1915 Maple

Ave. on April 3. Williams fits the description for several other armed robberies in the Northwest Georgia region including in Summerville.

REPORT

From A8

- Willow Drive, LaFayette, probation violation (felony)
- Curtis, Ashli Ruan, 27, 3280 Buchanan Court, Cleveland, Tenn., open container beer/wine/proter/stout/other similar beverages, probation violation (misdemeanor), probation violation (felony), driving while license suspended or revoked (second offense) within five years, too fast for conditions, improper lane change, failure to maintain lane, driving under the influence of alcohol, giving false name, address or birthdate to law enforcement officers
- Neal, Michael Gene, 54, 420 Glenwood Ave., Chattanooga, Tenn., hold for other agency, failure to register as sex offender, failure to comply with requirements, provide false info
- Johnson, Larry Ronnie James, 1293 Carnegie Ave., East Point, smash and grab burglary
- Parris, Clarissa Ann, 33, 1434 Highway 27, Summerville, driving while license suspended or revoked (first offense)
- Brigham, Steve Francis, 987 Reynolds Road, Soddy Daisy, Tenn., conspiracy to commit a felony
- Wilson, Eric Clay, 39, 1237 Dry Valley Road, Rossville, probation violation (felony)
- Dye, Cecil Carter, 216, 1251 Cypress Street Court, Chattanooga, Tenn., failure to appear (felony)
- Burse, Phillip Cornelius, 40, 3725 Fountain Ave., East Ridge, Tenn., conspiracy to commit a felony
- Smith, Danny Kerbell, 49, 329 Mission Ridge Road, Rossville, conspiracy to commit a felony (two counts), probation violation (felony)
- Cagle, Dylan Ray, 18, 43 Kemp Drive, Rossville, conspiracy to commit a felony, sale of a Schedule I or II controlled substance, purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale marijuana
- Foster, Marvin, Lev, 57, 109 Alpine Drive, Rossville, unlawful possession of 20 ounces or less of low THC oil, criminal use of an article with altered ID mark (not motor vehicle); purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale marijuana (two counts); receipt, possession or transfer of firearm by convicted felon or felony first offender
- Mathis, Miles Andrew, 38, 613 Beaumont Road, Rock Spring, conspiracy to commit a felony
- Garth, Edward Lavuan, 33, 317 Signal Drive, Rossville, conspiracy to commit a felony, possession of hydrocodone (two counts), possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, unlawful possession of 20 ounces or less of low THC oil; purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale marijuana (two counts); receipt, possession or transfer of firearm by convicted felon or felony first offender
- Rehley, Justin Brock, 37, 35 King St., LaFayette, possession of methamphetamine, probation violation (felony), simple

- Spring, reckless driving, driving wrong side of road; furnishing to, purchasing or possession of alcoholic beverage by person under age 21
- Ellerd, McKenzie Leigh, 23, 1603 Lakeshore Drive, Fort Oglethorpe, public drunk
- Blevins, Samuel Dennis, 19, 359 Durlam Road, Rising Fawn, U-turn in curve prohibited, headlight requirements all vehicles except motorcycles, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer (second offense),

- driving under the influence of alcohol under age 21; furnishing to, purchasing or possession of alcoholic beverage by person under age 21
- Bartleson, Michael Tate, 46, 911 Lafayette Road, Rossville, simple battery (family violence)
- Hammill, Cessna Shaolin, 18, 2018 Rogers Road, Rossville, theft by taking (felony)

Compiled by assistant editor Catherine Filgenon

FREE! Bath Tub
Includes: Free Delivery, Free Installation, Free Liner

WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,570

Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience

- Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting
- Patented Quiet Drain™ Technology
- Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation (INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard)
- 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage

Lowest Price Guarantee

844-870-6384

Or visit: www.americanstandard.com/bathtubs

BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$59.99 /month for 120 hours

190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card

1-866-369-1468

NOTICE

The Walker County Commissioner does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Walker County Courthouse Annex III at 201 South Main Street, LaFayette, GA on August 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. 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.

CURRENT 2020 TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
UNINCORPORATED						
Real & Personal	961,941,749	1,004,774,498	1,018,332,049	1,040,384,492	1,052,243,528	1,072,396,114
Motor Vehicles	68,687,190	52,994,480	41,373,460	32,972,930	28,334,940	12,239,790
Mobile Homes	12,968,613	12,656,306	12,771,772	12,240,064	12,940,052	14,624,676
Timber - 100%	472,005	422,554	812,422	762,345	464,867	492,716
Heavy Duty Equipment						
Gross Digest	1,044,269.57	1,070,847,838	1,073,289,703	1,086,359,831	1,093,983,307	1,099,753,296
Less M & O Exemptions	154,919,162	169,152,535	182,611,665	190,860,792	196,992,831	188,481,063
Net M & O Digest	889,350,395	901,695,303	890,678,038	895,499,039	896,990,558	911,272,233
State Forest Land Assistance Grant Value						
Adjusted Net M&O Digest		901,695,303	890,678,038	895,499,039	896,990,558	911,272,233
Gross M&O Millage	14.380	13.717	15.696	15.966	16.098	16.157
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	5.788	5.879	5.658	6.128	6.274	6.870
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.592	7.838	9.838	9.838	9.822	9.287
Net Taxes Levied	\$7,841,299	\$7,087,468	\$8,762,491	\$8,809,920	\$8,810,241	\$8,462,985
INCORPORATED						
Real & Personal	411,155,338	437,786,007	435,073,779	449,670,774	462,480,369	478,967,834
Motor Vehicles	15,187,880	10,878,920	8,035,180	5,953,080	4,823,570	1,875,810
Mobile Homes	146,420	165,450	105,018	107,903	122,189	142,385
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	8,000	8,500	22,775
Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gross Digest	426,465,636	448,830,387	443,213,977	455,739,757	467,434,628	481,008,604
Less M & O Exemptions	44,414,091	46,505,318	46,827,089	53,234,941	60,339,478	52,746,665
Net M & O Digest	\$382,055.55	\$402,325,069	\$396,386,888	\$402,504,816	\$407,095,150	\$428,261,939
State Forest Land Assistance Grant Value						
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	382,055,545	402,325,069	396,386,888	402,504,816	407,095,150	428,261,939
Gross M&O Millage	14.380	13.717	15.696	15.966	16.098	16.157
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	2.895	2.777	2.567	2.636	2.803	2.882
Net M&O Millage Rate	11.485	10.940	13.129	13.330	13.295	13.275
Net Taxes Levied	\$4,387,908	\$4,401,436	\$5,204,163	\$5,365,389	\$5,411,516	\$5,685,177
TOTAL COUNTY						
Total County Value	1,271,405.90	1,304,020,372	1,287,064,926	1,298,003,655	1,304,085,706	1,339,534,172
Total County Taxes Levied	\$12,029,207	\$11,488,924	\$13,966,654	\$14,175,309	\$14,221,757	\$14,148,162
Net Taxes \$ Increase	\$ (560,282)	\$ 2,497,730	\$ 2,088,655	\$ 3,468,555	\$ 3,468,555	\$ (73,355)
Net Taxes % Increase		-4.66%	21.78%	1.49%	0.33%	-0.52%

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Walker County Board of Education has tentatively adopted a 2020 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by .18 percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at the Advancing Education Center located at 925 Osborn Road, Chickamauga, Georgia, on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at the boardroom of the Walker County Department of Education located at 201 South Duke Street, LaFayette, Georgia on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., and on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 17.404 mills, an increase of .031 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 17.373 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market of \$100,000 with a homestead exemption is approximately \$1.18. The proposed tax increase for non-homesteaded property with a fair market value of \$75,000 is approximately 93 cents.



RESOLUTION R-019-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOLE COMMISSIONER OF WALKER COUNTY TO ADOPT A MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL USE OF CARGO CONTAINER HOMES AND TINY HOUSES

WHEREAS, the Sole Commissioner of Walker County is the governing authority for Walker County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Constitution and general laws of the State grant the local governing authority of each County jurisdiction to control all county property and to further adopt such ordinances and regulations as necessary to protect the public health, public safety and general welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, under authority of the Constitution of the State of Georgia and O.C.G.A § 8-2-170 et seq., a county may establish standards, condition and an inspection program for pre-owned manufactured homes; and

WHEREAS, promotion and maintenance of property values within the jurisdiction and the health and general welfare of the citizens of Walker County are furthered by adoption of standards for the conditions of structures, including pre-owned manufactured homes; and

WHEREAS, Walker County has previously adopted Land Use and Zoning ordinances regulating the placement of manufactured homes in the unincorporated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, Walker County deems it necessary and desirable to continue to study the health and safety of cargo container homes (metal structures typically used for transporting cargo) and tiny houses (structures having less than 500 square feet), as well as to study the impact that such structures would have on existing communities within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Supreme Court has held that a moratorium with response to the application of a zoning ordinance may be put in place for a reasonable period of time without the necessity of complying with the notice requirements of the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law; and

WHEREAS, Walker County finds it appropriate that a moratorium barring for 180 days the acceptance of applications for permits pursuant to said County ordinances for placement of cargo container homes and tiny houses for human dwellings in Walker County, and further barring any other activities relating to the residential use of such of such cargo container homes and tiny houses;



NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Walker County does hereby enact a moratorium barring for 180 days the acceptance of any application for permits pursuant to any and all statutes, ordinances, regulations, rules, and requirements, for use or placement for intended use, of cargo container homes and tiny houses for human dwellings in Walker County, and further barring any other activities relating to the residential use of such cargo container homes and tiny houses. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its approval for the public's health, safety, and welfare demanding it.

SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of August, 2020

ATTEST:

WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

REBECCA WOODEN, County Clerk

SHANNON K. WHITFIELD, Sole Commissioner

Walker County Departmental Statistics - July 2020



Department	Monthly Totals				YTD Totals		2019		Yearly Totals		Yearly Totals		Yearly Totals	
Animal Shelter	June		July		2020		2019		2018		2017		2016	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
Intake	133	109	90	32	569	315	1,094	295	1,176	25	1,628	979	1,301	1,004
Outake (Adopted, Rescued, Returned)	117	100	117	7	581	268	1,099	279	1,012	47	1,134	444	817	195
Adopted	0	14	20	0	31	37	208	152	138	34	217	147	304	94
Rescued	104	81	93	6	486	222	766	119	749	13	686	295	513	101
Returned to Owner	12	4	4	0	59	6	112	3	125	0	231	2	n/a	n/a
Euthanized	1	1	0	1	7	3	31	7	56	2	336	396	436	630

Codes Enforcement	June	July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
In Compliance	0	1	1,851	9,309	5,124	4,745	no data
Violations	65	72	220	435	857	1,469	221
Closed Cases	23	42	84	58	339	480	no data

Fire Department	June	July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Calls for Service	200	215	2,107	6,091	5,670	4,441	3,492
Units Handling Calls for Service	401	337	3,366	8,815	6,359	4,742	no data
Smoke Alarms Installed	22	13	194	781	228	21	no data

Litter	June	July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Roadside Trash Pounds	10,620	11,300	75,360	143,330	122,912	123,020	no data

Mountain Cove Farms	June	July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Nights Booked	76	53	404	1,102	908	525	162

Planning	June	July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Single Family New Home Construction	9	16	88	128	124	135	123

Public Relations	June	July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Media Impressions (stories)	25	36	283	451	509	603	no data
Facebook Followers Added	186	184	2,228	1,880	2,182	4,615	no data
Facebook Posts	79	89	569	602	487	594	no data
WalkerCountyGA.gov visitor views	55,289	49,120	417,159	357,989	316,285	399,087	173,745
Newsletter Subscribers Added	85	162	888	971	925	1,184	no data

Public Works	June	July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Patching/Potholes	411	619	3,585	6,148	4,798	no data	no data

Walker Transit	June	July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Trips	1,436	1,228	11,215	26,535	21,551	24,938	no data

*some operations impacted by COVID-19