

**Millersville Board of Commissioners  
Minutes of Special Meeting**

**Monday, July 24, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.  
at Millersville City Hall**

The Millersville Board of Commissioners held a special meeting at City Hall on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. with the following board members present: Tommy Long, Mayor; Milton Dorris, Vice Mayor; Commissioners: David Gregory and Cristina Templet. Also present: Scott Avery, City Manager; and Jack Freedle, City Attorney. Absent City Recorder/Finance Director Holly Murphy.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Long called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no Pledge of Allegiance at this meeting.

3. **Public Hearing on the city's intent to exceed the certified (tax neutral) property tax rate for the Robertson and Sumner County portions of Millersville.**

a. Open Public Hearing.

Mayor Long opened the public hearing.

Deborah Chadwick, 2253 Gideon Road, stated two weeks ago she expressed her concerns at a public hearing that their city taxes will go up 16% if they approve this rate. She said everyone is aware that both counties aren't reappraised at the same, they're a year apart, so she asked that they revisit Ordinance 23-797 and come up with some new figures that all residents can live with because she truly feels this is not fair and just for every citizen in the city.

Tim Lassiter, 1388 Williamson Road, who also spoke at the public hearing two weeks ago asked for an explanation on several questions which are listed as follows:

- why would they set the rate in Robertson County that equates to a twenty-four-cent increase versus a half cent in Sumner County;

- why did they pass a budget that was based on an 85-cent tax rate before they passed the 85-cent rate which he believes was a unanimous vote;

- why won't they raise the taxes in both counties by ten or fifteen cents so they could share the cost of the raises, the part-time fire department and all the other increases;

- why do all the commissioners happen to live in Sumner County where there's only a half-cent increase.

b. Close Public Hearing.

With no further comments, Mayor Long closing the public hearing.

4. **Second Reading on Ordinance 23-797**, an ordinance to adopt property tax rates for the City of Millersville for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

**Commissioner Gregory made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-797 on second**

**reading, seconded by Commissioner Templet.**

Vice Mayor Dorris made a motion to amend the ordinance to reflect the equalization rate of 0.6123 in Robertson County and 0.9946 in Sumner County but the motion failed due to the lack of a second.

During discussion Vice Mayor Dorris stated that any vote above the equalization rate is a tax increase and anybody who says different is ignorant of the process or they're lying. Commissioner Templet said she don't think anybody is saying it's not a tax increase. She asked how he would propose to fund the budget. Mr. Dorris said that's the City Manager's job. He said if they don't accept the equalization rate, their taxes will go up. He will not vote for a tax increase; never have and not going to now.

Mayor Long said it is a tax increase but they've always stuck with \$1.00. He gave an example in Mrs. Chadwick's case of the total tax bill at \$1.00 verses her tax bill at \$0.85. He said it is a tax increase in one aspect but in another aspect it's a decrease.

Commissioner Gregory said he's been through a lot of these equalizations during his 11 years on the Board and they couldn't give the city employees any raises, they couldn't support the city's need for infrastructure or even supplies and that's why he made the motion to do this because they need to pay their employees. He said he would be willing to revisit this down the road but he wants everybody here to get a raise and keep our city functioning. Further discussion followed.

**Mayor Long called for a vote on the motion to approve Ordinance 23-797. (Vote 3 yea – 1 no, with Vice Mayor Dorris voting no.) Motion carried.**

5. Motion to go into Executive Session.

**Commissioner Gregory made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Templet. (Vote 4 yea – 0 nay). Motion carried.**

The meeting was recessed for the Executive Session.

6. Motion to go into Regular Session.

**Commissioner Gregory made a motion to go back into Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Templet. (Vote 4 yea – 0 nay). Motion carried.**

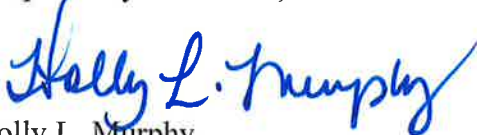
7. Adjournment.

**Commissioner Gregory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Templet. (Vote 4 yea – 0 nay). Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.**

Meeting minutes transcribed from audio recording.

Respectfully Submitted,



Holly L. Murphy,  
City Recorder/Finance Director

