

**MINUTES OF SECOND MILLAGE RATE HEARING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)**

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
August 4, 2025
10:30 AM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Pat Ferris Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez City Clerk Lea Alvarez City Manager Jeff Drobney
Absent	Councilmember Antonio Jones

1. Invocation

Mayor Easterling led the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Easterling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment

This section is for comment on any item on the agenda.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

- A. **Second Public Hearing: Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate**
Consideration to approve a Resolution adopting the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate.

Property Tax Administrator Tom Jankowski presented a resolution to adopt the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) millage rate. Mr. Jankowski stated that the City of Kennesaw is proposing an M&O millage rate of 7.75 mills, which remains unchanged

from the previous year. The public hearing dates, along with the Current 2025 Tax Digest and 5-Year History of Levy, were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 19, 2025. Additional required advertisements were published on both July 19 and July 26, 2025, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32. The first public hearing was held on August 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. and the third public hearing is scheduled for August 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

10:31 a.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

DENISE FREY [City Resident]: Ms. Frey inquired why her City tax bill had doubled over the past few years.

Dr. Drobney responded that staff would remain after the meeting to review and discuss her tax bill with her in more detail.

10:38 a.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

B. Second Public Hearing: Bond Millage Rate

Consideration to approve a Resolution adopting the Bond Millage Rate.

Mr. Jankowski presented a resolution to adopt the Bond millage rate. He stated that the City of Kennesaw is proposing a Bond millage rate of 1.5 mills, which remains unchanged from the previous year. This rate is levied to fund the debt service on the \$15 million Recreation and Traffic Safety Bonds approved by voters on September 21, 2004. The public hearing dates, along with the Current 2025 Tax Digest and 5-Year History of Levy, were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 19, 2025. Additional required advertisements were published on both July 19 and July 26, 2025, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32. The first public hearing was held on August 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. and the third public hearing is scheduled for August 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Finance Director Jennifer Gordy explained that staff evaluated a full rollback rate for the Bond millage, which would reduce the rate to 0.025. This option would cost the City approximately \$60,000 and result in an estimated \$4.00 savings per average household. Staff also reviewed a potential 0.1 rollback, which the City could accommodate. This would represent a \$218,000 reduction to the City's budget and provide about a \$15.00 savings per household.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris asked for clarification, stating his understanding is that the City has collected more than the amount required to satisfy the bond indebtedness. Dr. Drobney confirmed that even with a 0.1 rollback, the City is still on track to potentially pay off the debt early.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris expressed his support for the Council to approve a 1.4 Bond millage rate at the final public hearing.

10:42 a.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

10:43 a.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

11. Consent Agenda

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment

This section is for general comment.

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

20. Mayor's Report

A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

22. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Names and Addresses will be disclosed in the Permanent Minutes of the
City of Kennesaw

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS LEGIBLE AND CLEAR

**City Council Second Millage Rate Hearing
8/4/2025**

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Denise Frey	1901 Lake Heights Cir	Property tax
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