



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

**TO:** Special Session **MEETING DATE:** July 23, 2024  
**FROM:** Sue Wang, Finance Director  
**SUBJECT:** Establish Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

### BACKGROUND

The Form 420 provided by the Property Appraiser (copy attached) reflects an actual property tax valuation of \$742,247,307 for next year, an increase of \$52,046,049 from the prior year's final taxable value of \$690,201,258 which is an increase of 7.5%. The increase is reflected at 100% and has not been discounted to 97%. This includes \$4,469,237 dedicated increment value to the CRA (see attached DR-420TIF form).

The Administration is recommending a 5.7000 millage rate in the proposed budget in order to address the negative unassigned Fund Balance for General Fund based on the audit report for Fiscal Year 2023. Four schedules are attached for your reference. One is titled Millage Dynamics, and the others Ad Valorem Revenue FY 2025, Property Taxes FY 2025 and City/CRA Ad Valorem Breakdown FY2025. They demonstrate among other things, the impact the ad valorem tax has on homeowners using various millage rates. In addition to Form 420s, we included Form 420MM-P (Maximum Millage Levy Calculation-Preliminary Disclosure). The 5.7000 rate will require an unanimous vote by Council and would generate \$4,230,810, but when discounted to 97% is \$4,103,885. It must also be noted that the impact from the Council's decision to implement additional exemptions for seniors are included in these figures. The impact is minimal, but this does reflect in this year's exemptions.

The millage rate set at tonight's meeting will be certified to the respective parties and will be used on the TRIM notices that will be mailed to taxpayers in August 2024 by the Clay County Property Appraiser's office notifying them of the proposed millage and the hearing dates. If Council sets a millage rate at the final budget hearing that is greater than the vote set at this meeting, then new TRIM notices will have to be mailed at the City's expense. Council may decrease the millage rate prior to the final hearing without having to send out notices. Council needs to set September 3 and September 17 as the tentative and final hearing dates to hear comments from the public on the proposed millage rates, operating budget, and capital improvement plan and these are the dates that will be reported to the Property Appraiser and Department of Revenue. For Green Cove Springs, these dates fall on regular Council meeting dates. The City cannot hold its hearings the same dates as the School Board or the County. Their dates are set as July 30 and September 12 for the School Board and September 10 and September 24 for the County. To comply with advertising and other TRIM requirements, the City's first public hearing needs to be held on September 3 and the final hearing on September 17.

### FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1) **Council approval of \_\_\_\_\_ as the tentative millage rate for fiscal year 2024/2025.**
- 2) **Set September 3 at 7:00 pm as the first public hearing on the millage, budget, and CIP.**
- 3) **Set September 17 at 7:00 pm as the second and final hearing on the millage, budget, and CIP.**