STAFF REPORT
REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: June 30, 2026 **DEPARTMENT:** Finance

TITLE:

Resolution No. 23-2026 – establishing the Proposed Tentative Voter Approved Debt Rate for fiscal year 2026-2027

SUMMARY:

Resolution No. 23-2026 will establish the Proposed Tentative Voter Approved Debt Millage Rate of 0.40 for the fiscal year 2026-2027 General Obligation Bond Fund Levy.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

In November 2016, approximately 67% or two-thirds of Voters of the City of Lake Worth approved the issuance of General Obligation Bonds for Road Improvement Projects in an amount not to exceed forty million dollars.

In FY 2018-2019, the City established a Debt Fund to receive the receipts of debt rate and remit the debt service payments. For FY 2026-2027, the debt service receipts will be in the amount of **$1,522,212**. Pursuant to §200.001, Florida Statutes, the City must advise the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser of the Tentative Voter Approved Debt Rate, as well as the date of the City's first public budget hearing scheduled for September 10, 2026. The Tentative Voter Approved Debt Rate approved at this public hearing establishes the maximum rate the City may consider and approve during the budget hearings in September. The Voter Approved Debt Rate may be lowered by the Commission at the hearings, but it cannot be raised without additional notice being provided to each taxpayer at a cost of approximately $20,000 for postage. The FY 2027 debt services, the Voter Approved Debt Rate will remain the same as the prior year FY 2026 of 0.40 mills.

The Voter Approved Debt Rate adoption process is governed by the State Statute known as Truth In Millage (TRIM). In Florida, property is assessed by the County Property Appraiser, and property taxes are collected by the County Tax Collector. All property is assessed at 100% of real value, which is approximately 85% of market value. The State Constitution restricts the annual increase in taxable value of homestead property to 3% or the increase in the CPI, whichever is less.

The City is required to hold two public hearings for adoption of a Voter Approved Debt Rate. The first public hearing is advertised by the Property Appraiser mailing to each property owner on a TRIM notice. In addition to notification of this first public hearing, the TRIM notice contains the following information:

- The new and prior year's assessed value;
- The tax bill if the current property tax rate is changed for the new year;
- The tax bill if the roll-back rate is levied for the new year; and
- The property tax bill if the proposed budget is adopted

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove Resolution No. 23-2026 establishing the Proposed Tentative Voter Approved Debt Rate for fiscal year 2026-2027 and schedule the first public hearing for on September 10, 2026 at 5:01 PM and the second public hearing on September 24, 2026 at 5:01 PM.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis – N/A
Resolution 23-2026