



HAINES CITY

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CITY MANAGER MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners

Through: James R. Elensky, City Manager

From: Omar DeJesus, CPA, Finance Director

Date: July 17, 2025

Subject: Tax Year 2025 Proposed Millage Rate and Budget Meeting Dates

Executive Summary

Establish the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025/26 (2025 Tax Billing Year) and set the public hearing dates for the tentative and final budget adoptions that will be advertised.

Staff Contact: Omar DeJesus, CPA, Finance Director

Introduction

The intent of this item is to set the proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025/26 (2025 Tax Billing Year) and set the public hearing dates for the tentative and final budget adoption, per Florida Truth in Millage (TRIM) requirements

Background

The current millage rate is 7.5895 and has remained the same since the 2016 Tax Billing Year. The City Commission must set the proposed millage on or before August 4, 2025 per TRIM requirements. Once established, the proposed millage will be reflected on notices mailed by the Polk County Property Appraiser on or before August 18, 2025 to all property owners in the City. This notice will include information on the date, time and location of the City's first public hearing for the budget, and what the old tax rate was, and what the new tax rate will be with the proposed millage.

Once the proposed millage is set, the City Commission can lower the millage rate at any time during the budget process, but it cannot raise the millage without mailing a second notice of the proposed increase to all property owners.

The calculated roll-back millage rate is mills which generates the same total revenue from the previous year. Setting the millage at the current rate of 7.5895 mills must be approved by a simple majority vote.



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The City Commission needs to also establish the public hearing schedule. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and School Board are given the opportunity by State law to set their respective hearing dates first, requiring cities to schedule around them. These dates are:

Tentative Hearing:	School Board	Tuesday, July 29, 2025
	BOCC	Tuesday, September 9, 2025
	Haines City	Thursday, September 4, 2025

Final Hearing:	School Board	Tuesday, September 9, 2025
	BOCC	Tuesday, September 15, 2025
	Haines City	Thursday, September 18, 2025

The first public hearing for the City can be scheduled on any date between September 4, 2025 and September 19, 2025. The advertisement for the second public hearing must be published no more than 15 days after the first budget hearing and must be held no less than two (2) days after the advertisement but no more than five (5) days after the advertisement.

Organizational Goal(s)

Financial: Develop and maintain fiscal policies based on program and performance measures while engaging community involvement.

Budget Impact

The budget impact for fiscal year 2025 is a positive \$4,453,112 in increased ad valorem revenues. Of this amount, the General Fund will retain \$3,567,329 and the CRA will receive an additional transfer amount of \$885,783 if approved at the current millage of 7.5895 mills.

Recommendation

Make a motion to (i) set the proposed Millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025/26, and (ii) set the public hearing dates for the tentative and final budget adoption for Thursday, September 4, 2025 and Thursday, September 18, 2025.