

West Union denies millage increase

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WEST UNION — With the option to increase its millage and boost the town's budget, West Union Town Council unanimously voted Tuesday night to leave the rate at its current number rather than increase taxes.

One resident spoke in public session against any potential increase, noting many town residents are on fixed incomes.

"This is the time of year we get the letter,"

Mayor Linda Oliver said. "We have to put it on the agenda to talk about it — whether or not we pass anything, it still has to be talked about."

The current millage in West Union is 50.3, according to Oconee County auditor records. The state revenue and fiscal affairs office set the millage caps based on consumer price index and population, which both grew last year in West Union, according to a letter sent to the town.

"We can go up to 3.64

percent if we wanted to do an increase in our millage rate," she later added. "This being the type of year it has been economically, I don't want to put that burden on any of our residents."

Fellow council members agreed and supported Oliver's motion not to raise the millage. Councilwoman Kathy Frederick was absent from the June meeting.

"I think we all have been real gracious in helping our community," Councilwoman Dixie Meeks said,

noting the taxes and late fees that weren't collected in the wake of COVID-19. "I hope our residents know our heart, that we love our neighbors."

After the motion unanimously passed, there was a brief round of applause. Councilman Doug Moore reminded the citizens in attendance what they do as a council directly affects them as well.

"We live here," he said. "Whatever we do to y'all, we do to us."

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