

County council agrees to lower millage rate

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
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WALHALLA — Oconee County Council unanimously agreed Tuesday night to accept the county auditor's recommendation to lower the millage rate for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Auditor Christy Hubbard said the total millage in the county would drop from 227.8 to

226, triggered by a drop in county bonds (1 mill) and school operations (0.8 mills). Hubbard sets the millage on the bonds for the school district and the county.

"When it comes to millage each year, we have to look at who does what," she said. "What I do is bring all the assessments to you and you have to ac-

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tually vote on the operating millage for the county and the school district."

A mill is one one-thousandth of a dollar and a unit of monetary value. Hubbard said millage is determined based on assessed values for real estate, aircraft, boats, business personal property, manufacturing and other items. She also shared the only municipality to have an increase in millage

was West Union, up to 51.8 — an increase of 1.5 mills.

Hubbard also quantified the drop in millage for homeowners and vehicle owners. For those without a homestead exemption and a home valued at \$100,000, there will be a drop of \$8.80 in tax bills. Those with

second homes in Oconee County would have to pay \$10.80 less at the same rate. Someone with a vehicle valued at \$25,000 would pay \$2.70 less.

Multiple council members thanked Hubbard for her work in calculating the figures. Councilman Glenn Hart called the process "mindboggling" while offering up kudos to Hubbard.

David Dial, of the Richland community, was the only member of the public who spoke about the proposed millage decrease from Hubbard and called it "refreshing" to see

"This is really, really good," he said. "When this comes up for you folks, I hope you consider it."

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