

At 5:32 PM, the public hearing meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2017 roll was called upon, with the following members present: **Mayor Belinda C. Constant; Council Members Wayne A. Rau, Milton L. Crosby, Michael A. Hinyub, Mark K. Miller and Jackie J. Berthelot.**

Absent: None

**I. A public hearing will be held as follows:**

**Date: May 24, 2017**

**Time: 5:30 PM**

**Place: Gretna City Hall**

**740 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

**Council Chambers – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**Gretna, LA 70053**

**Contact: Norma J. Cruz, City Clerk (504) 227-7614**

**Mrs. Norma J. Cruz, City Clerk** read into record, the specific reason for the public hearing:

**To consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum.**

**Mrs. Raylyn C. Stevens**, Director of Finance and Tax Collector provided the following information to the public present, prior to consideration and adoption of the three millage resolutions as follows:

Every four years a parish wide reassessment or reappraisal of property value is mandated by the State Constitution to revalue all property on the existing tax roll. This process, adjust the current millage rates upward or downward depending on property value. If property values decrease, the millage rates are adjusted upward to collect the same amount of property taxes as in the preceding year. If property values increase, the millage rates are adjusted downward, so that the taxing body would collect the same amount of property taxes in the preceding year. The taxing body then has the option to set the millage rates to the same rates being collect prior to the reassessment or reappraisal adjustment. This roll forward of the millage rates will enable the taxing body to yield more tax dollars due to the increase in the assessed value of properties. All of the millage rates being voted on were brought to an election by the citizens and has also gone to the voters for renewal.

The exception is the General Alimony millage, which is constitutionally allowed and never expires. The original millage rates for the General Alimony was 7 Mills and is currently set at 4.29 Mills and will be rolled back up to the 4.44 Mills as collected in Year 2015.

A Sewer and and Street Light Maintenance millage renewal election was held in 2015, and therefore were not subject to the reassessment process. These millage rates are set as voted in the rates of 2 and 4 mills respectively. A Fire Protection millage was also renewed on April 9, 2016; and will be voted on by a separate resolution, which will be (resolution no. 3), a voter approved 5 Mills and the taxing body will set the millage rate at 4.00 Mills.

The millage rate citywide for 2016 was set at 50.49 Mills for Gretna and 30.23 Mills for Timberlane. Timberlane receives fire and sewer service from Jefferson Parish and therefore pay taxes to Jefferson Parish and not the City of Gretna for these services. The cost for a city resident owning a \$100,000 house would increase by \$21.44 per year. The cost for the same house in Timberlane of \$100,000 would increase by \$9.51 per year.

This roll forward would provide an additional \$443,654.00 in much needed tax revenues due to increases in employee's benefits and general inflation on goods and services necessary in providing municipal services.

The following would be the fiscal impact on the specific areas of city service:

\$ 35,549.00	General Alimony tax (citywide)
\$ 85,182.00	Police service
\$ 52,586.00	Ambulance service
\$198,741.00	Fire protection
\$ 35,700.00	Recreation
\$ 4,509.00	Social Services for the Aged
\$ 20,350.00	Sewer utility services
\$ 10,029.00	Street lights maintenance

The floor was opened for the citizens (signed in) to address the Mayor and Council members:

**Mrs. Linda Sanchez**, a Gretna resident addressed Councilman Rau and questioned things would have to be cut if the funds do not come in.

Councilman Rau replied, the city is not absolutely sure what services would be cut. The city has an amount of revenue, and provides services; the cost of those services continues to increase (gasoline, tires for vehicles) labor have increased and if unable to meet the payroll for the people who work for you, then obviously certain services would be cut (grass-cutting and street sweeping, etc.). If the income is cut, then standard of living will not be the same as before. Pointed out, the fact that this city is alive, moving, growing, therefore it has to be maintained. The services provided by the city are on the edge of the budget. The services provided are better now than five or ten years ago. The city has continued to improve to provide the citizens with better services, quality of life and safety; Gretna is the safest city in the area. The fire and police departments, when called upon, are fast responders. Fire insurance rates are low because of the good fire protection offered. All of these services would have to be considered, if the city does not have the revenue to provide them; then obviously cannot provide the services the residents have grown accustomed to. The City of Gretna is the hottest real estate market in the area and property values in Gretna are higher and that is because of the quality of life and the services that this city provides. If we cut them, then the value of the houses will decrease. Everything gets affected by services; we believed that because of the type of services have provided, and will continue to provide, are dependent upon the ability to have the funds to continue to provide the services. The City of Gretna is not raising taxes; it is collecting taxes at rates imposed in year 2015 and 2016. Those were the rates adjusted at that time; those are the taxes to be collected and will get additional revenue for the city to continue to provide the services.

Ms. Sanchez questioned who did the assessment of the properties for the city.

Councilman Rau replied that the assessment is done by the Assessor for Jefferson Parish.

Ms. Sanchez stated that with her being a widow, pensions do not increase; salaries have been cut in half because spouses are gone and are learning to live on fixed income and that what the residents are concerned about. She stated she sympathized with the Council members because they have a big job to do; but she asked of the Council to consider the widows of the city.

**Mrs. Laurie Ledet** a Gretna resident expressed concerns stating she talked to many people who expressed to her they did not know anything about this meeting. She expressed many ideas with regards to the city's dissemination of information to the residents.

Mrs. Ledet questioned Councilman Rau comments made on the news "I think the Council is pretty solid on this", stating this was stated prior to the public hearing; before the voice of the people is heard. Does the Council already know how they are going to vote tonight? - - Obviously, this has been discussed but a lot of people do not know what is happening. She alluded the city should be looking at what it should be cutting on wasted things in the city. Alluded to the wasted tax payers' money on litigation; the boat docked at the ferry landing, with tax payers dollars spent on the river landing and now taxes are increasing; expressing that it was not appreciated.

**Mrs. Gayle Bertucci** a Gretna resident questioned how much does the City of Gretna pay to put on the Gretna Heritage Festival?

Mayor Constant replied there is a line item the city's budget that is budgeted every year (\$150,000) to pay for overtime and tourism advertising for the city. -- Mrs. Bertucci then asked what the city gets back from the festival. -- Mayor Constant explained that the festival aids approximately 50 non-profit organizations in the city and metropolitan area.

Mrs. Bertucci stated that the city was not in the position to be charitable. The city is paying \$150,000 to help out charities, but it is done on the backs of the citizens and did not comprehend why put on a big show that costs the city money. Mayor Constant that to advertise the city, costs a lot of money and there are different modes of advertisement and as a board, always voted in favor of the money with the feeling of getting a "bigger bang for the bucks", by using it to advertise for the Gretna Heritage Festival and promoting the City of Gretna in that way, as opposed to other advertising campaigns that could be costlier. Mrs. Bertucci alluded that it could be effective advertising, if it is followed up with a study to find out how many people are actually coming back. -- Mayor Constant stated a study was done, there are people living in this city today because of a visit to the Gretna Heritage Festival; the study was done by the University of New Orleans.

Chief Lawson interceded stating that the University of New Orleans did a study years back; and he economic impact of the Gretna Heritage Festival to the city overall was over \$1-Million Dollars annually (sales tax, hotel/motel taxes, etc.)

Mrs. Bertucci opined that this meeting was not advertised; she found out through a telephone call. The city could be more transparent and if the city wants input from the citizens, then it should make sure the citizens are notified.

Mayor Constant replied stating the council and the administration works relentlessly trying to make sure that every done is transparent. This meeting was announced at the last Council meeting; it was advertised in the month of April; been on the Website for over 30-days and advertised in the two newspapers as prescribed by State laws. (See complimentary information below). The city went above and beyond what State laws request to do.

**“A public hearing is required to roll forward AND a public meeting is required to adopt the millage.”**

***Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution.***

- Two separate publications are required **no less than 30 days** before the public hearing.
- Publication shall include [but not limited to] the date, time place and subject matter of the public hearing
- **Publications shall be published on two separate days in the official journal and in another newspaper with a large circulation within the taxing authority, if there is one.”**

**Mr. Tim Killen** a Gretna resident addressed the Mayor and City Council with concerns relative to the millage. He alluded the city was doing great with everything growing, plants planted everywhere, the size of the police department has quadrupled since he has lived here. He expressed concerns of the sewer system. Pointed out to the budget's pie chart, 50% is fire protection; streets flood faster than a house catch on fire. He expressed that the front of his building floods every year and always is out of power and these are the things that the public cannot control, and the reason why we elect public officials, to take care of these things. Instead flowers are being planted on the neutral ground; big signs, beautiful parks, information center in the middle of a park. Notices a high water vehicle by the police department, how many times it has been used since it was purchased? That is why we have the National Guard with those vehicles. Why does a police station need a tanker truck; can they go to the gas station. The VIP bus, do prisoners need VIP bus. Did not understand why the city is asking the people of this city for more money when they are throwing the taxpayers' money away. Is aggravating to average citizen to see all this; complained paying over \$8,000 in taxes last year. Did not see the point why the fire department has to spend half of its budget on the fire department. The city needs to spend more money on drainage and infrastructure.

Chief Lawson answered some of the statement made regarding the police department. The police complex is been built and has been funded through Federal and State grants (\$8,000,000). The high water vehicles are actually military surplus vehicles purchased for pennies on the dollar. They do have to be maintained but when it floods, the department cannot order the trucks nor can it order fuel. The Katrina experience gave a good lesson; the police department did not have fuel to put in the police cars. The department now keeps surplus fuel in the event of an emergency. When there is a disaster, you cannot go out and buy them during a disaster and that is the reason they are purchased and stored. Insurance is paid on them for a limited amount when they are used.

Councilman Rau provided answers on behalf of the fire department. The cost of equipment for the fire department is unbelievable. In 1963, a fully equipped fire truck costs about \$25,000; now that fire truck cost approximately \$300,000; the price of a snorkel in 1965 was \$65,000 state of the art. We have a 100' ladder truck on order with Ferrara and it will about \$1,300,000.

The city attorney interceded and advised keeping the decorum of the meeting; it was not a debate.

Councilman Rau continued informing on the fire department. The 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court District requires a 100' ladder truck and it is a Federal and State requirement; all of the equipment is needed and every piece of equipment in the fire department is needed and is used when needed. The fire department operates to the best of its efficiency and operates at the maximum capacity that it can by providing the best fire protection. The city has a Class 2 rating with the exception of Baton Rouge, Shreveport, New Orleans and Jefferson Parish who have Class 1 rating with paid fire fighters. Gretna cannot afford a paid fire department. Jefferson Parish attempted to put a paid fire department in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Area of River Ridge; that would have cost the homeowners 25.00 mills and that is half the millage paid totally in Gretna. Getting what we get for what we are paying for it, we are doing very well.

**Ms. Katherine Bach wife of Time Killeen** signed in but did not want speak. **Mr. Tim Killeen** then addressed the Council members stating that the drainage system concerns had not been addressed yet. He asked if anyone will address the drainage system.

**Mayor Constant** stated that the dedicated millage rate for sewer is 4.06 mills and the city cannot go above what the voters approved. The city lost capital outlay money from the State due to the State's financial situation and have taken the city's budget doing utility work.

**Mr. Michael Baudoin, Public Utilities Director** explained that the dedicated tax millage is the money used for repairs and improvements. That tax millage helps repair the existing utilities plus make improvements when needed. Also, with the State's assistance because some of the project cannot be funded with the dedicated millage, the city relies on State capital outlay money. However, almost \$1,000,000 in projects had within the last year, had been dropped because of the State's financial situation. One of those projects is the Sewer Force Main, which is required by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to get it done (solution to help some of bubble flow at Whitney and Hawkins); the city will re-route the sewer system to the master lift station on Stumpf Boulevard and that project is mandated by the State to do and has to be done. The money the city relied from capital outlay (\$650,000) was dropped. This year the city is going to pay for it out of the Sewer budget.

Mr. Killeen stated that drainage is a priority; cannot continue driving through water. Need to get funds from other departments to address the drainage problems; should devote keeping the streets dry.

**Mrs. Mary Lou Eichhorn** a Gretna resident expressed she could not understand the disconnection between the city and the residents when it comes to tourism and aesthetics. Complained that her water bills doubling; informed that past administration did mail out information, via the water bills regarding the DEQ Water Report for the City of Gretna. Residents were advised to visit the city's website to obtain the current report, that report is 2 years old (2015 report). Not everyone has access to the Internet, why send the report directly to the constituents through the water bills like in past administration. Mrs. Eichhorn stated she appreciated how the city wanted to present an attractive face to tourism and to attract others here, but to a resident it can appear that priorities are skewed. Does the city need too much emphasis on tourism and aesthetics at a time when the city is fiscally challenged?

Mrs. Eichhorn asked what will the traffic flow implications for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Extension going to be. It was not discussed at the District Planning for the city. The city already has drainage problems in McDonoghville and throughout Gretna. Where is that water going and how will the truck traffic be accommodated and what are the trucks carrying. The City of Gretna when calculating property taxes, Homestead Tax Exemption does not apply to City of Gretna taxes, so the entirety of a tax raise falls 100% on the homeowners and there is a lot of people in this city on fixed income and can be a burden.

Mayor Constant stated appreciating all comments given; but can assure that the improvements made to this city was not made with the tourists in mind; it was for every property owner that has invested in this city and that is where the focus is at. Relative to the increase in property value; the assessment is a product of the Assessor. The city tax is also dependent of that assessment, so for senior citizens, they will get the benefit of the assessed value.

Jefferson Parish Assessor's page at <http://www.jpassessment.com/resources/seniors-special-assessment>

**Mr. Michael Baudoin, Public Utilities Director** explained that since he was appointed in 2005 as public utilities director, the city has spent over \$25,000,000 in water and sewer projects in the city to revamp the defunct system that existed prior to 2001. The city is rebuilding the system and that is the reason for new water towers and a lot of money is invested into the infrastructure (cleaning, viewing and repairing sewer lines). Over a period of years, the money used on tax revenue, that money goes to fixing point repairs; on can be over 300 to 400 sewer point repairs per year. The bigger issues such as lift station, the city is in the process of revamping them.

With regards to the Water Annual Quality report, Mr. Baudoin explained that it takes a full year for the State to comply on all of the information because they supply that report to the City of Gretna; therefore when you see the 2015 report, that information is sent to the city before June 30, 2016. The report per the State has always been one year behind. Relative to the delivery system, the State dictates to the City how to disseminate that information to the public, which is based on the population of the city.

Mrs. Eichhorn asked where the water from the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Extension going? -- Mr. Baudoin replied that water will be going into the canal systems (Governor Hall or Whitney Canal). The 4<sup>th</sup> Street Extension will make a major improvement of actually getting the water off the street and giving it a cleaner route to get to Governor Hall and Whitney canals. This improvement is a big plus for the city and should make a major difference. She stated her only criticism was the lack of overall information about the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Extension Project.

**Mayor Constant** informed the city held 2 public meetings held and the drainage was addressed as a component of the project. If there is need for another full scope meeting, the contractor is always willing to come back to another public meeting. She wanted Mr. Baudoin to provide that information to the public because \$25,000,000 is a lot of money that continues to be invested into an over 100-year old sewer and water system underground. The city does what it needs to do; go above and beyond relative to a new water tower or a new lift station on top of general repair work; and that is what this dedicated millage is used for.

**Ms. Sevilla Finley**, Gretna resident thanked the Chief of Police, Mayor and Council members for everything. Stated that Gretna was always a working class town and very modest; people watched what they spent. There has been a big increase on her water bill. There are so many projects going on in the city; the present mayor has done more in a couple years than what the previous mayor did in his tenure. Some of projects such as the Heritage House and the Gretna Cultural Center for the Arts are terrific and hope they can sustain themselves so that taxes are not increased. The beautification is great; the street car for the senior is a little too much. Modest spending is important. There are a lot of senior citizens living in Gretna on fixed income and low income citizens, who are struggling and more taxes could make it difficult to live in Gretna. Need more affordable housing for people in dire circumstances. The last time it rained hard, her toilet would not flush; it could be something with the drainage. Relative to the parking situation; people do not want to pay for parking so they are using far away street and park across from resident's driveway making it difficult to pull out. Ms. Finley pointed out that fluoride was toxic and has been proven to be obsolete and would like for the city to consider removing it from the water. Recommended the city to watch what they levy on people because people on a fixed income do not get increase on their pension.

**Ms. Melanie Andrews**, Gretna resident thanked all the city departments and for all the services and for making her quality of life much improved. Ms. Andrews provided briefly when she purchased her home; since that time everything has increased, including property taxes. Unfortunately, has called 911 for ambulance for the fire department. Everyone rushed, they did a job fabulous. Ms. Andrews cautioned the Council in proceeding slowly with spending. The city has a population that for many reasons, are on fixed income; not only senior citizens, have fixed income. Rentals and multi units have increased. She stated that perhaps the city can evaluate and cut back and tighten up. Gretna is a wonderful place to live.

**Mr. Jim Barse**, a Crown Point resident (Owner of rental property in Gretna), asked the Council to watch closely where it can tighten up and keep the cost down. He informed that the hottest real estate on the Westbank is Algiers Point and Old Gretna. The fact that property values are going up and people want to live here helps businesses and it help people with jobs and helps people who want to come in and establish new businesses. Maybe the city can publish a simpler budget. He offered ideas on how to offer dialogue forums on the budget, taxes and millages. He asked to keep the cost down but knows that Gretna is a good place to live and lots of good reasons to live here. The safety offered by the police department is great.

**Mr. Henry Weathers**, a Gretna resident expressed concerns on why noticing that the city can increase the taxes without voter approval; he compared it to "taxation without representation".

Mayor Constant explained to Mr. Weathers that the Finance Director gave a full explanation millage adoption. Mayor Constant requested Mrs. Steven to provide a short snip for Mr. Weathers' information.

Mrs. Stevens stated that all of the millages reflected on the tax bill have been approved by voters at one point in time and almost all of them have been renewed except the General Alimony, which the city is constitutionally allowed to collect; and is the assessed values that dictates what those rates are; but they have all been to the voters several times. She explained on the statement "without further voter approval"; the voter has already voted on it once and that gives the Council the ability to set the rates until they expire.

For the record, there were no more speakers addressing the Mayor and City Council. Therefore, the public hearing was closed at 6:47 PM; the Council special meeting was opened.



The Mayor and Council of the City of Gretna met this day on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 6:48 PM, in Special session with the following members present: **Mayor Belinda C. Constant; Council Members Wayne A. Rau, Milton L. Crosby, Michael A. Hinyub, Mark K. Miller and Jackie J. Berthelot.**

Absent: None



### **Opening Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Rau offered a prayer upon the opening of the meeting; therefore the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.



**Notice of the Meeting**

Notice of the special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Gretna to adopt the 2017 Millage was posted accordingly on the Gretna City Hall bulletin board at the main entrance.



**Consideration and Adoption of Resolutions:**

On motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Crosby**, the foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

**Yeas: Councilmen Rau, Crosby, Hinyub, Miller and Berthelot**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstained: None**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-029**  
**A resolution adopting the 2017 adjusted millage rates for the City of Gretna, Louisiana.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Gretna, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on May 24, 2017, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following adjusted millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said City for the year 2017 for the purpose of raising revenue:

	<b>MILLAGES</b>	
	<b>City of Gretna</b>	<b>Timberlane Subdivision</b>
General Alimony	4.29 mills	4.29 mills
Police Protection	6.77 mills	6.77 mills
Fire Protection	1.93 mills	0.00 mills
Recreation	2.32 mills	2.32 mills
Street Lights	4.00 mills	4.00 mills
Ambulance	3.57 mills	3.57 mills
Sewer System	2.00 mills	0.00 mills
Sewer Maintenance Facilities	1.96 mills	0.00 mills
Fire Protection	3.97 mills	0.00 mills
Recreation Services & (2.03) Social Services to the Aged (.48)	2.51 mills	2.51 mills
Fire Protection	7.01 mills	0.00 mills
Ambulance Service	2.90 mills	2.90 mills
Police Department	3.87 mills	3.87 mills
<b>TOTAL MILLAGES:</b>	<b>47.10 mills</b>	<b>30.23 mills</b>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Assessor of the Parish of Jefferson, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2017 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of the City of Gretna shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

There were no further comments on the above resolution.



On motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Crosby**, the foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

**Yeas: Councilmen Rau, Crosby, Hinyub, Miller and Berthelot**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstained: None**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-030**  
**A resolution to set forth the 2017 adjusted millage rates and roll forward to millage rates not exceeding the maximum authorized rates for the City of Gretna, Louisiana.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Gretna, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on May 24, 2017, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rates, but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rates, on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2017, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rates are:

	Adjusted Rate		2017 Levy	
	City of Gretna	Timberlane Subdivision	City of Gretna	Timberlane Subdivision
General Alimony	4.29	4.29	4.44	4.44
Police Protection	6.77	6.77	7.00	7.00
Fire Protection	1.93	0.00	2.00	0.00
Recreation	2.32	2.32	2.40	2.40
Street Lights	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Ambulance	3.57	3.57	3.69	3.69
Sewer System	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
Sewer Maintenance Facilities	1.96	0.00	2.03	0.00
Fire Protection	3.97	0.00	4.11	0.00
Recreation Services & (2.100) Social Services to the Aged (.500)	2.51	2.51	2.60	2.60
Fire Protection	7.01	0.00	7.25	0.00
Ambulance Service	2.90	2.90	3.00	3.00
Police Department	3.87	3.87	4.00	4.00
<b>TOTAL MILLAGES:</b>	<b>47.10 mills</b>	<b>30.23 mills</b>	<b>48.52 mills</b>	<b>31.13 mills</b>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Assessor of the Parish of Jefferson, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2017 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of the City of Gretna shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by no less than two-thirds of the total membership of the taxing authority voting in favor as required by Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B).

There were no further comments on the above resolution.



On motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Crosby**, the foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

**Yeas: Councilmen Rau, Crosby, Hinyub, Miller and Berthelot**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstained: None**

**RESOLUTION 2017-031**

**A resolution adopting other authorized 2017 millage rates (Fire Protection Millage) for the City of Gretna, Louisiana.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following millages are hereby levied on the 2017 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the City of Gretna, Louisiana:

	<b>MILLAGE</b>
	<b>City of Gretna</b>
Fire Protection	4.00 mills

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the proper administrative officials of the City of Gretna, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of the said municipality for the year 2017, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

Mrs. Katherine Weigel Billings expressed frustration on all the millage numbers read into record by Mayor Constant stating she did not know what they meant. She wanted a dollar figure disclosed. She did not know what her property value was.

Mayor Constant explained that later in the week, the city can provide that information for her.

Per State laws, the millage resolutions have to be read in their entirety prior to adoption.

Councilman Rau explained thoroughly the process that has to be followed into the adoption of the millage. Mayor Constant is required by law to read all into the record.

The total millage for the City of Gretna for 2017 would 52.52 mills; Timberlane Subdivision would be 31.13 mills.

Mrs. Billings expressed concerns of a pothole on her street and wanted it fixed. In conclusion, she expressed appreciation to all; appreciated her police department, the best of the best; and believed the elected officials were the greatest and loved them all.

After much explanation given, there were no further comments.



On motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Crosby**, the Mayor and City Council Special meeting for May 24, 2017 at 7:00 PM was adjourned, and the same was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

**/S/ NORMA J. CRUZ**  
**CITY CLERK**  
**CITY OF GRETNA**  
**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**/S/ BELINDA C. CONSTANT**  
**MAYOR**  
**CITY OF GRETNA**  
**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**A TRUE COPY:**

**/S/ NORMA J. CRUZ**  
**CITY CLERK**  
**CITY OF GRETNA**  
**STATE OF LOUISIANA**