

RESOLUTION NO: 1383-16

CITY OF MILTON, FLORIDA

FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT ANNUAL ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION

**PUBLISHED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING JANUARY 6, 2016
ASSESSMENT ROLL POSTED ON CITY WEBSITE JANUARY 14, 2016
PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE ADOPTION JANUARY 12 and FEBRUARY 9,
2016**

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RESOLUTION NO: 1383-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MILTON, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE AVAILABILITY AND FUNDING OF FIRE PROTECTION AND RELATED ESSENTIAL SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE CITY TO FUND, IN PART, THE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONTINUAL READINESS TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION; IDENTIFYING BENEFITS, BURDENS AND COSTS TO BE ASSESSED; ESTABLISHING THE METHOD OF APPORTIONING BENEFITS, BURDENS AND COSTS AMONG SPECIALLY BENEFITED PROPERTY; ADOPTING AN ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING THE METHOD OF COLLECTION; PROVIDING FOR ASSOCIATED POLICY DIRECTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILTON, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I. INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1.01. AUTHORITY. This Resolution of the City of Milton, Florida is adopted pursuant to Ordinance No. 1428-16 (the "Fire Assessment Ordinance"), Sections 166.21 and 166.041, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of law.

SECTION 1.02. DEFINITIONS. This Resolution constitutes the Annual Assessment Resolution as defined in the Fire Assessment Ordinance. All capitalized words and terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning set forth in the Fire Assessment Ordinance, unless the context hereof otherwise requires.

SECTION 1.03. INTERPRETATION. Unless the context indicates otherwise, words importing the singular number include the plural number, and vice versa; the terms "hereof," "hereby," "herein," "hereto," "hereunder" and similar terms refer to this Resolution; and the term "hereafter" means after, and the term "heretofore" means before, the effective date of this Resolution. Words of any gender include the correlative words of the other gender, unless the sense indicates otherwise.

SECTION 1.04. FINDINGS. It is hereby ascertained, determined and declared as follows:

- (A) The constant and continued preparedness to provide fire protection services, facilities and programs possesses a rational relationship to the use and enjoyment of real property by: (1) protecting the value of the improvements and structures through the continual availability of fire control and provision of fire protection and associated rescue services; (2) protecting the life and safety of intended occupants in the use and enjoyment of real property; (3) lowering the cost of fire insurance by the presence of a professional and comprehensive fire protection and associated rescue program within the City; (4) providing protection for uninsured or underinsured property and property owners; and (5) containing the spread of fire incidents, sometimes occurring on vacant or undeveloped property, with the potential to spread and endanger the structures and occupants of nearby improved property, thereby limiting liability.
- (B) The sharing of benefits, burdens and costs for fire protection services and facilities based upon the replacement value of improvements for each Tax Parcel in the City as compared to the replacement value of improvements for all Tax Parcels in the City could conceivably serve alone as a fair and reasonable means to apportion entirely the Fire Services Assessed Cost. Such approach substantially removes the underlying land values from consideration and reasonably focuses upon the built environment on the land protected by fire services, facilities and programs. This is a direct and logically related means to share benefits, burdens and costs of fire protection services, facilities and programs.
- (C) It is also clear that the relative improvement value of improvements to land may be utilized as one factor among others considered in a given formula or calculus since the resulting Assessments are formed from a reasoned or logical base against which the special benefits, burdens and costs may be multiplied or determined.
- (D) Apportionment on the basis of replacement value derived from the relative improvement value (as determined by data derived from the Tax Roll prepared by the Property Appraiser) recognizes the relatively higher benefit accruing to properties which face greater financial loss in the event of fire incident.
- (E) Besides the advantage of relying upon data prepared by the Property Appraiser in the normal conduct of his or her responsibilities, an approach based in whole or in part upon relative improvement value is also advantageous because it is self-correcting. Relative value of improvements may change from year to year in accordance with market conditions and other factors and such variation will be adjusted automatically each subsequent year in accordance with

the updated improvement value determined by the Property Appraiser. If the improvements on a given Tax Parcel were to increase or decrease in value with the passage of time relative to the updated improvement value city- wide, that Tax Parcel's relative percentage to the total amount assessed for that Tax Parcel and all Tax Parcels would also increase or decrease proportionately.

- (F) The mere availability of fire protection services and facilities benefits each Tax Parcel of real property in the City in a substantially uniform fashion by relieving the common burden placed upon City services and facilities collectively created by individual Tax Parcels whether a fire event occurs or not. Fundamentally, the presence of each Tax Parcel within the City creates a comparable and similar requirement to stand ready to serve and continually maintain a preparedness to provide fire protection and associated services and facilities for all Tax Parcels.
- (G) The City's core preparedness costs are generally those necessary to maintain the readiness of fire personnel to respond in the event of random emergency calls and to assure an effective network of coverage for basic insurance ratings. Such preparedness is continual and predominantly lies in wait for the emergency of a fire incident.
- (H) The Council has carefully considered the information prepared by City Staff describing a special assessment apportionment methodology designed to fund all or some portion of the City's annual budget expenditures corresponding to fixed and variable costs incurred in maintaining common or similar continual readiness to provide fire protection to all parcels and the actual provision of service to all parcels.
- (I) Preparedness costs of lying in wait are largely recurring, almost fixed over the course of a budgetary period, because they are typically associated with wages, salaries, administration, and overhead which support the constant availability of services and facilities. Such core costs must be absorbed even when firefighting capabilities remain exclusively in standby mode.
- (J) Fixed costs can generally be described as those costs incurred in providing services, facilities and programs required for readiness to provide fire protection which do not necessarily vary from parcel to parcel based upon property classification, parcel- specific physical characteristics (improvements) or actual demand in the event of deployment. Variable costs are those dependent upon or which more closely bear a direct relationship to property classification and/or parcel- specific physical characteristics such as replacement value of improvements, and therefore are more likely to vary from parcel to parcel.

- (K) The constant potential for the outbreak of a fire represents the predominant requirement for service. When and where a fire incident occurs is essentially an unknown and a difficult variable to accurately predict. The scale of this potential defines the basic underlying cost of being prepared to limit fire loss and to protect property values. From a policy and public purpose standpoint, preparedness is the predominant activity of the City's fire services and facilities. The City, in this state of readiness, must consider the committable personnel, necessary equipment and facilities, and the time likely required to extinguish a fire (planning or preparing for the potential incident or event) prior to the emergency allocation of direct resources enabling a fire to be extinguished as quickly as possible (deploying to or intervening in the incident or event itself). The amount of resources for fire protection service, facilities and programs made available in such a continual preparedness exercise each year is a public administration and policy decision which necessarily focuses in the aggregate on all property within the City.
- (L) In developing a recurring revenue source to fund a portion of the core fixed cost component of the City's annual budget associated with a continued readiness to provide fire protection services, facilities and programs, it is not necessary to solely focus on the size, value or physical characteristics of individual Tax Parcels for fire protection. Instead, in this context, each individual Tax Parcel contributes similarly to the required state of readiness, and similarly and substantially shares the same benefits from such cost components; and, therefore it is fair and reasonable to ask the owner of each Tax Parcel to contribute equally toward funding all or a portion of the costs associated with such continual readiness to provide fire protection services and facilities.
- (M) The findings contained herein are premised upon information, input, analysis and review from City staff, officials, and public comment, as well as careful consideration by the City Council. A combination of the foregoing yields a reasoned apportionment methodology premised upon two distinct tiers or classes of apportionment allocation: Tier 1 - a sharing of benefits, burdens and costs for fire protection services and facilities on a per Tax Parcel allocation premised upon maintaining a continual state of preparedness and readiness to serve whether or not a request for actual assistance is ever received; and, Tier 2 - a sharing of benefits, burdens and costs for fire protection services and facilities based upon the replacement value of improvements for each Tax Parcel in the City as compared to the value of improvements for all Tax Parcels in the City. Although either of these two tiers might be used singularly to address a significant portion of the budget for special assessment apportionment purposes, together they provide a simplified and

powerful equity tool for the City to fairly and reasonably share assessable benefits, burdens and costs among all assessable Tax Parcels in the City.

- (N) Allocating a portion of the costs attributable to the City's continual readiness to provide fire protection services and facilities on a Tax Parcel basis reasonably avoids cost inefficiencies and unnecessary administration, and is a fair, efficient and reasonable mechanism to allocate such costs among all Tax Parcels.
 - (1) The use of data derived from the Tax Roll (both in form and content), which is a publicly and uniformly maintained database of all Tax Parcels employed by the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector, is an accurate, fair, and efficient means to allocate or distribute Fire Service Assessed Costs associated with standing ready to provide fire protection and associated services and facilities and the provision of said services.
- (P) It is fair, reasonable, effective, and efficient for all Tax Parcels, including statutorily defined parcels such as individual condominium or cooperative units with extraordinary alienability, to share equally in the core fixed costs represented by the special assessments to be imposed hereby, particularly since such costs are not necessarily dependent upon or determined by physical characteristics or demand in the event of deployment.
- (Q) It is also fair and reasonable that some portion of fixed costs and variable costs be shared and distributed among Tax Parcels, including statutorily defined parcels such as individual condominium or cooperative units with extraordinary alienability, using the apportionment methods which are weighted more heavily on the Fire Assessment Roll (using data from the Tax Roll) toward physical characteristics, such as those represented by the replacement value of improvements.
- (R) City Staff has reviewed current and prior year budget information related to the provision of fire protection services and facilities and conducted a reasoned analysis of advanced life support services ("ALS"), to avoid any question that the Fire Service Assessed Cost improperly includes emergency medical services other than first response medical services routinely delivered by fire fighters. This is a well-considered means to isolate such advanced life support medical services from fire service related responses and avoid debate as to case law validity of the resulting Fire Services Assessment.
- (S) City Staff has reviewed current and prior budget information related to the provision of fire protection services and facilities and conducted a reasoned analysis of preparedness and provision

cost budget components, resulting in the determination that all Tax Parcels benefit in a substantially uniform manner from services, facilities and programs characterized as fixed and otherwise necessary to provide a continual readiness to provide fire protection. City Staff has determined that a portion of the fire department budget could be reasonably allocated per Tax Parcel to preparedness cost expenditures incurred in maintaining readiness to provide fire protection and associated services and facilities (Tier 1); and a portion of the fire department budget could be reasonably allocated to both fixed and variable cost expenditures of the actual provision of services based upon the replacement value of improvements associated with each Tax Parcel (Tier 2).

- (T) It is fair and reasonable to fund all or a portion of the Fire Services Assessed Cost on the basis of the replacement value of improvements associated with each Tax Parcel compared to the total replacement value of all improvements in the City in order to recognize the proportional benefit accruing to properties which face greater financial loss in the event of fire incident.
- (U) It is fair and reasonable to multiply the established budget for fire protection services, facilities and programs by an identified proportion of the costs associated with the continual readiness to provide fire protection, in order to determine a proportional amount of the estimated budget allocable to such costs; and, then divide such amount by the total number of Tax Parcels within the City in order to determine the proposed annual rate of assessment per Tax Parcel in an attempt to uniformly and proportionally fund such preparedness costs.
- (V) The City is not required to fully fund any given essential service or improvement cost through a special assessment. So long as the application of funds is for a public purpose and funds are legally available, the City may alternatively determine to fund all or some discrete portion of an essential service or improvement, such as fire protection services, facilities and programs, with the general fund or other legally available revenues. The determination as to whether to contribute other legally available revenues, and how much to contribute, lies solely in the discretion of the City Council.
- (W) There is no requirement that the City impose an assessment for the maximum amount of the budget which can be funded by special assessments. Stated in the alternative, the City Council may annually determine as a tax equity tool to impose special assessments at a rate less than necessary to fund all or any specific portion of the costs which might otherwise be funded by special assessments associated with fire protection services and facilities. Costs incurred in providing fire protection services, facilities and programs not otherwise funded

through Fire Services Assessments may be paid with general fund or other legally available revenues. Such legally available revenues as a matter of policy may be applied exclusively to any tier or class of budget allocation or expense otherwise funded by a special assessment, in part to one tier or class of any budget allocation or expense, or in any combination thereof, and maintain the validity of each apportionment approach used for the remaining portion of the budget attributed to the Fire Service Assessed Cost. The flexibility is implemented through a policy and legislative determination employed through careful adherence to case law, statutory law, and the State Constitution, as well as the exercise of annual budget responsibility, discretion and equity vested in the City Council. However, in no event shall any annual rate of special assessment exceed that previously noticed to the affected land owners without further notice and public hearing pursuant to the Fire Assessment Ordinance.

- (X) The City Council is cognizant that any system, metric or analytical view of appraising benefits or assessing costs will be open to some criticism or suggestion of alternative methods or approaches, and has labored to educate itself as to the facts, analysis, law and policy latitudes available to it in determining the Fire Services Assessed Cost and the rate of the Fire Services Assessment and approving the Fire Services Assessment Roll.
- (Y) The apportionment among Tax Parcels of a portion of the City's annual budget for fire protection services, facilities and programs represented by the assessment rates and Fire Services Assessments hereby adopted, are reasonably characterized as necessary for providing the continual readiness to provide fire protection, notwithstanding whether fire incidents or fire calls materialize or not; and, is hereby determined to be a fair and reasonable means to annually allocate and share such benefits, burdens and costs.
- (Z) The benefits derived or burdens relieved from the continual readiness to provide fire protection services, facilities and programs as to each Tax Parcel subjected to the Fire Services Assessments equal or exceed the amount of the special assessments levied and imposed hereunder. The Assessment for any Tax Parcel within the City in employing such an approach also does not exceed the proportional benefits that such Tax Parcel will receive compared to any other Tax Parcel so assessed within the City.
- (AA) The City Council hereby finds and determines that the Fire Services Assessments to be imposed in accordance with this Resolution provide a proper and equitable method of funding associated fire protection services and facilities by fairly and reasonably allocating a portion of the cost thereof among specially benefited property.

ARTICLE II. NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING

SECTION 2.01. ESTIMATED FIRE SERVICE ASSESSED COST; RATE OF ASSESSMENT.

- (A) The estimated Fire Service Assessed Cost to be recovered through Fire Service Assessments for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2016 is \$226,981. (\$181,584.80 for Tier 1- per Tax Parcel for readiness to serve; and \$45,396.20 for Tier 2 - relative value of improvement for each Tax Parcel) The total is derived from the average of actual operating and capital costs from the previous four (4) years, with approximately eighty percent (80%) reasonably allocated to Tier 1; and twenty percent (20%) reasonably allocated to Tier 2. Parcel information is based on the previous years certified tax roll provided annually by the Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser.
- (B) The Fire Service Assessments established in this Annual Assessment Resolution are determined by the assessment rates prepared for consideration by the public and City Council in the preparation of the Fire Service Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2016.
- (C) The rate of Fire Services Assessment is \$41.54 per Tax Parcel (Tier 1), plus \$0.08 per thousand dollars of improvements, or fraction thereof, for each Tax Parcel as reflected in the Tax Roll (Tier 2).
- (D) The administrative costs to be recovered through the Fire Service Assessments for the Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2016 is \$0.00.
- (E) A Public Hearing was held on January 12, 2016.

SECTION 2.02. FIRE SERVICES ASSESSMENT ROLL.

- (A) The Assessment Coordinator has prepared a preliminary Fire Service Assessment Roll that contains the following information:
 - (1) A summary description of each Tax Parcel (conforming to the description contained on the Tax Roll maintained by the Property Appraiser for the purpose of levying and collecting ad valorem taxes) which is intended to be subject to the Fire Service Assessment;
 - (2) The name of the owner of record of each Tax Parcel, as shown on the Tax Roll; and

- (3) The proposed amount of the total Fire Service Assessment for each affected Tax Parcel for the fiscal year as referenced in Section 2.01, exclusive of anticipated costs of collection and administration.
- (B) In the event the City also imposes or collects an impact fee upon new growth or development for capital improvements related to fire protection, the special assessments provided for hereunder shall not include costs attributable to capital improvements necessitated by new growth or development which were included in the computation of such impact fee or which are otherwise funded by such impact fee.
- (C) Copies of the Fire Assessment Ordinance, this Resolution and the preliminary Fire Services Assessment Roll have been made available in the City Clerk's office at 6738 Dixon Street, Milton, Florida or have been open to public inspection in a manner consistent with the Fire Assessment Ordinance. The amount of the proposed Assessment for each Tax Parcel has been noticed through the City's website and accessible through the internet at www.miltonfl.org.
- (D) In the event the Assessment Coordinator makes any corrections, exemptions, administrative hardship deferrals or other modifications to the Assessment Roll authorized by the Fire Assessment Ordinance, this Resolution or otherwise, all funding for such changes to the Assessment Roll shall be funded by legally available funds other than direct proceeds of the Fire Services Assessment. Such changes shall not require any recalculation or change in the rate or rates of assessment otherwise considered or adopted pursuant to the Assessment Ordinance or any Annual Assessment Resolution.

SECTION 2.03. NOTICE BY PUBLICATION. The Assessment Coordinator directed the publication of notice of a public hearing in the manner and time provided in the Fire Assessment Ordinance. Proof of publication of the notice is attached hereto as Appendix A.

SECTION 2.04. PUBLIC HEARING. A public hearing was held (reference Section 2.01) in Council Chambers at City Hall, 6738 Dixon Street, Milton, Florida, at which time the Council received and considered information and comments on the Fire Services Assessment from City officials, staff and advisors, as well as the public and affected property owners, and considered imposing Fire Services Assessments and the method of collection thereof as required by the Fire Assessment Ordinance.

ARTICLE III. ASSESSMENTS

SECTION 3.01. IMPOSITION THROUGHOUT CITY. Upon adoption hereof, Fire Services Assessments are to be imposed throughout the entire area within the boundaries of the City and this Resolution shall be deemed to be adopted and confirmed for all purposes.

SECTION 3.02. IMPOSITION OF ASSESSMENTS. Fire Service Assessments shall be imposed against Tax Parcels located within the City, the annual amount of which shall be computed for each Tax Parcel in accordance with this Resolution. When imposed, the Fire Services Assessment for each Fiscal Year shall constitute a lien upon Assessed Property equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district or municipal taxes and other non-ad valorem assessments as provided in the Assessment Ordinance.

SECTION 3.03. APPORTIONMENT APPROACH.

- (A) As provided for herein, the Fire Services Assessed Cost shall be apportioned among all Tax Parcels within the City. The estimated Fire Services Assessed Cost and rate of Fire Services Assessment shall be that described in Section 2.01 hereof.
- (B) It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that the method of determining the Fire Service Assessments as set forth in this Annual Assessment Resolution is a fair and reasonable method of apportioning the Fire Services Assessed Cost among Tax Parcels of Assessed Property located within the City.
- (C) The Fire Services Assessment Roll is hereby approved.

SECTION 3.04. APPLICATION OF ASSESSMENT PROCEEDS. Proceeds derived by the City from the Fire Services Assessments, after payment of costs and expenses associated with collection and administration of the Assessments, shall be utilized for the provision of fire protection related services, facilities, and programs associated with maintaining continual readiness to serve and the provision of service. In the event there is any fund balance remaining at the end of the Fiscal Year, such

balance shall be carried forward and used only to fund costs associated with fire protection related services, facilities, and programs.

SECTION 3.05. COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS; VALIDATION.

- (A) Unless otherwise determined by the City Council, collection of the Fire Services Assessments shall take place pursuant to the uniform method of collection described in Article III of the Assessment Ordinance.
- (B) The amount of the Assessment billed to each owner of Assessed Property may include a pro rata share of the costs and expenses associated with collection and administration of the Assessments.
- (C) Capital equipment and facilities are fundamental components to the preparedness necessary to continually stand ready to provide fire protection services, facilities and programs. Following adoption of this Annual Assessment Resolution, but prior to the date on which the Fire Service Assessment Roll is certified for collection, the Assessment Coordinator and counsel for the City are directed and authorized to promptly institute proceedings pursuant to Chapter 75, Florida Statutes, if applicable, for validation of any Obligations to be secured by the Assessments. Unless directed otherwise by resolution of the City Council, the imposition and collection of Assessments as provided herein shall be contingent upon the validation of any such Obligations and the appeal period having expired without an appeal having been taken and/or any appeal having been resolved in favor of the City. Any Obligations issued by the City shall contain a covenant by the City to adopt an Annual Assessment Resolution imposing Assessments for each Fiscal Year until the Obligations have been paid in full.

SECTION 3.06. EXEMPTION.

- (A) The City Council reserves the right and ability in the future to find and hold exempt from Fire Services Assessments, any Tax Parcel or property.
- (B) Using legally available funds other than the proceeds of the Fire Services Assessments, the City shall otherwise fund or contribute an amount equal to the Fire Services Assessments that would have been otherwise derived from such exempt Tax parcels or properties.
- (C) The following Tax Parcel classifications are special designations used by the Property Appraiser for recordkeeping purposes and do not represent actual or assessable Tax Parcels and are not

subject to the Fire Service Assessments contemplated hereunder: (1) common element, (2) header record, and (3) notes parcel.

- (D) Certain Tax Parcels associated with the following classifications used by the Property Appraiser typically do not receive a special benefit from the provision of fire protection services and facilities or are infeasible or impractical to assess, and therefore are not subject to the Fire Services Assessments contemplated hereunder: (1) subsurface rights, (2) right-of-way, (3) rivers, lakes & submerged land, (4) sewage disposal & waste lands.
- (E) Certain Extra Features associated with the following classifications used by the Property Appraiser which have been determined to receive no benefit from the provision of fire protection services and facilities or are infeasible or impractical to assess are not subject to the Fire Services Assessments contemplated hereunder: (1) Asphalt, (2) Brick Paving, (3) Cell Site, (4) Concrete, (5) Driveway, (6) Helicopter Pad, (7) MH Park Site, (8) MH Site, (9) MH Vacant Site, (10) Parking Space, (11) Patio, (12) Pavement, (13) Swimming Pool, and (14) Walkway.
- (E) The foregoing classifications of properties and/or features are reasonably determined to be inappropriate, infeasible or impracticable to assess, and either benefit marginally or create a lesser or nominal demand or burden on the City's costs associated with readiness to serve, and do not merit the expenditure of public funds to impose or collect the Fire Services Assessments. The Assessment Coordinator, or designee, is authorized and directed to use sound judgment in extending such determinations and guidance as the Fire Services Assessment Roll is collected.
- (G) The City Council reserves the right and ability in the future to impose Fire Services Assessments against the properties and features indicated in the foregoing, to the extent permitted by law or otherwise in the event required or directed to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 3.07. EFFECT OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION.

The adoption of this Annual Assessment Resolution shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented herein (including, but not limited to, the method of apportionment and assessment, the rate or rates of assessment, the Assessment Roll, and the levy and lien of the Assessments), unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within twenty (20) days from the date of City Council's adoption of this Annual Assessment Resolution.

ARTICLE IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 4.01. AUTHORIZATIONS. The Mayor and any member of the City Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney, the Clerk, the Fire Chief and such other officials, employees or agents of the City as may be designated by the City Manager are authorized and empowered, collectively or individually, to take all action and steps and to execute all instruments, documents, and contracts on behalf of the City that are necessary or desirable in connection with the imposition and collection of the Fire Services Assessments contemplated hereunder, and which are specifically authorized or are not inconsistent with the terms and provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 4.02. CONFLICTS. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4.03. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Resolution that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4.04. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Annual Assessment Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption. ADOPTED THIS 29th day of September, 2016

CITY COUNCIL OF
CITY OF MILTON

By: Wesley Meiss
Wesley Meiss, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dewitt Nobles
Dewitt Nobles, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Heather Lindsay
Heather Lindsay, City Attorney

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILTON, FLORIDA, TO CONSIDER ADOPTION, LEVY, AND IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY TO DEFRAY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONTINUAL READINESS TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION AND TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING SUCH ASSESSMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Milton, Florida, will hold a public hearing at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.; and on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, at City Hall, 6738 Dixon St, Milton, Florida, for the purpose of hearing interested parties with respect to the following proposed special assessments.

The City of Milton is in the process of establishing a dedicated funding source for the provision of fire protection services and facilities through the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments, sometimes referred to as special assessments, against certain improved and vacant real property located within the City limits.

Proposed Schedule of Assessment. The special assessments, if approved by the City Council, will be allocated among assessable tax parcels according to a two-tiered methodology pursuant to which a portion of the costs attributable to the City's continual readiness to provide fire protection services to be shared equally among all the parcels on a per parcel basis (Tier I); and a portion of the remaining costs of service availability will be shared in accordance with the relative value of improvements for each tax parcel in the City as compared to the value of improvements for all tax parcels in the City (Tier II).

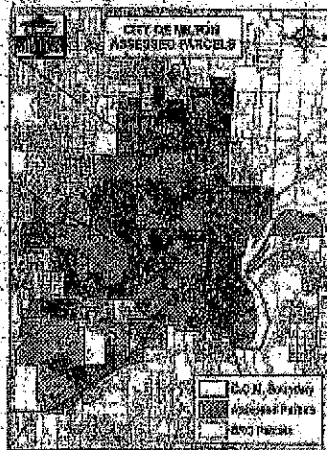
Uniform Collection through the Tax Collector. The assessment will be collected pursuant to the tax bill collection method as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes; in which case the annual assessment may include fees imposed by the county property appraiser and tax collector, and may be adjusted as necessary to account for any statutory discounts which are necessitated when employing the efficiencies of collecting the assessments annually on the same bill as property taxes.

Right to Appeal. All affected property owners have the right to appear at the public hearing and to file written comments and objections with the City Council within 30 days of publication of this Notice. Written comments and objections should be sent to the City of Milton City Hall, P.O. Box 968, Milton, FL 32571, Attn: Dewitt Nobles, City Clerk.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if any person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this public meeting, such person may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with a disability, such as vision, hearing, or speech impairment, or persons needing other types of assistance, and who wish to attend City Council meetings or any other board or committee meeting, should contact the City Clerk in writing, or may call (850) 981-5421 for information regarding available aids and services.

Geographic Property Subject to Fire Assessments



Dewitt Nobles, CITY CLERK
City of Milton, Florida