

Opinion Comment by Maxine McClanahan

I am getting a bit weary hearing numbers, statements, other data that when researched turns out to be incorrect. Here is an example of what I am talking about . . .

During the March 30, 2023 workshop meeting while discussing property tax, the Mayor stated and I quote . . . “The county has gone unchecked. I don’t know about your property taxes, but my personal property taxes from the county went up \$1500 last year.”

That \$1500.00 figure did not sound right to me, so I did some research.

Now, I don’t know why there was an embellishment of the numbers, BUT for the record and according to the Mayors tax bills, here are the numbers obtained from the Walton County Tax Office. (bills available upon request)

	2021	2022	Total Change
County Tax	682.26	682.26	\$0.00
School Tax	1433.89	1739.64	305.75
School Bond	177.15	213.57	36.42
Fire District Tax	87.47	87.47	0.00
City Tax	428.75	520.12	91.37
		TOTAL DIFFERENCE	433.54

This is a TOTAL increase on the Mayors TAX Bill of ONLY \$ **433.54**, no where near **\$1500.00**. Why is there a need to embellish to this degree? Would not saying... “my taxes went up over \$400.00. . .” have done the same thing? For those of us on fixed income, \$400.00 is just as difficult.

I can not guess as to why the Mayor made the statement in the first place, but if used to have impact, then shouldn’t those sort of statements be made from a basis of factual information?