



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
June 20, 2018
*Immediately Following Public Hearing***

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner

Members Absent: Adela Yelton, Commissioner

Staff Present: Ken Turner, Interim City Manager/Finance Director
Keri Stevens, City Planner

Item No. 1 Meeting Called to Order

Item No. 2 Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Laratte moves to adopt. Commissioner Shortell seconds. All ayes.

Item No. 3 **2018 Tax Millage Rate Ordinance – First of Three Required Readings**

The millage rate is a number set each year to calculate property taxes. A millage rate of 9.957 mills is proposed for 2018. Even though that is the current rate, taxes would rise 8.32% because of increased property values. For taxes to remain the same, a millage rate of 9.192 mills (called the "rollback") would be set.

This is the first of three readings before the Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC) votes to set the millage rate. The other readings follow millage rate public hearings both on Monday, June 25th at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The BOMC will vote at the regular meeting immediately following the third public hearing.

Interim City Manager Ken Turner explains that the current millage rate has been in place for four years. However, taxes have risen because property values have increased. He talks about major City expenses, primarily the dramatic rise in health insurance premiums for employees as well as increase of gas prices. Mayor Elmore says he'd like to lower the millage rate but knows the City has some unexpected expenses this year. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher agreed and noted the problem of having the ratio of taxes falling so heavily on residents as opposed to businesses.

He cited expenses such as the zoning rewrite, new police officers and the contract pay out for the former City Manager, for example. Commissioner Shortell mentioned that construction costs are currently high as well. She said the last time the millage rate was rolled back the tax digest had increased 14% compared to 2% this year. Mr. Turner said he does not want the police response time to increase because there are not enough officers on staff. He says two officers are needed and possibly more once planned developments are complete. Police Chief Lynn Thomas offered the types of crimes that could increase with these developments. He also discussed response times. Commissioner Shortell said she would like to see some relief for seniors on a limited income in the future. Mayor Elmore agreed. Mr. Turner said if the millage rate is rolled back, some projects will have to be delayed or the unrestricted fund balance would need to be used. Mr. Fisher clarified that the City needs two new officers now regardless of any new development.

Item No. 4 Public Comment

Attendees had questions about tax revenue imbalance between residents and businesses and police, as well as comments about current investment to meet long term goals.

Item No. 5 Adjournment

Commissioner Shortell moves to adjourn. Commissioner Laratte seconds. All ayes.

APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF JULY 2018



Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gina Hill, City Clerk