

MINUTES OF THE TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING  
A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a truth in taxation hearing of the Independence City Council was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 6:45 p.m.

Johnson explained this is a Public Hearing for the City's 2017 Budget.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Councilmembers Betts, Spencer, Grotting, and McCoy  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Assistant Horner  
VISITORS: Steve McDonald (ABDO), Penny Bailey, Camille Thomas

3. TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

Mayor Johnson outlined the main purpose of the hearing and asked the two visitors if they had something specific they would like to address. Bailey (3145 Co Rd 90) said that 15.6% increase in property taxes is outrageous. Johnson asked if Bailey's valuation was increased from last year. Bailey said she did not think so. Johnson said most homes in the area increased by 4%. Thomas (6775 Fogelman Rd) said she was interested in asking about her homes valuation increase as well. She said they had a 7% increase and she does not see how that is accurate considering the homes on her street that have not sold. Kaltsas said the City's tax rate has stayed flat year after year but if a home's value has increased based on its assessment then that tax rate will increase for that property. Kaltsas noted the City budget has increased 6.5%.

Mayor Johnson introduced Steve McDonald, Abdo, Eick, & Meyers to review the final budget figures. McDonald stated that the goal of the meeting is to approve the final levy and submit it to Hennepin County by the due date of December 28, 2016. McDonald noted there were no legislative impacts this session. The overall budget increase for 2017 is \$172,000. McDonald said the residential values increased 7.27%. He noted the tax rate is different if the value of the home is over \$500,000. McDonald said expenditures were up \$179,000 from last year and that increase was largely due to the Police contract which was \$80,000 over last year. He said recycling and comprehensive plan funds were also added to expenditures.

Bailey said her valuation went up 15.6%. Kaltsas said he would contact Melissa Potter with the Assessor's office to find out about Bailey's valuation. Thomas said she would like to know what the County bases their calculations on. Johnson noted that in the spring the City can address valuation comments directly.

4. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion made by McCoy, seconded by Betts, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Ayes: Betts, Johnson, Spencer, Grotting and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Trish Bemmels, Recording Secretary

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