

MINUTES OF A TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Council Members Betts, Gyllenblad and Wenck.
STAFF: Clerk-Administrator Hirsch, Attorney Vose.
ABSENT: Council Member Wallace.
VISITORS: Chris Cady, Mike Zeglin, Ed & Kathie Pluth, Brad Spencer, LuAnn Brenno, Craig Olson, Dave Appelhof, Bob & Marilyn Hamilton, Public Safety Director Ray McCoy, Robert Lyrek.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Truth in Taxation meeting of the Independence City Council was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 7:00 p.m.

2. TRUTH IN TAXATION BUDGET HEARING.

Hirsch presented the City's 2010 budget. The revenue is \$2,074,865 from property taxes, \$97,504 from Fiscal Disparities and \$144,600 from other revenue (permits and fees). The City also has \$265,222 due for bonds in 2010. The total budget amount is \$2,582,191. Residents in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed District have an additional \$88,066. She stated the proposed budget is balanced, with revenues matching expenditures. The City's fund balance is 75 percent, which is high, but the City is following auditor's recommendations. The tax levy is a decrease of 13.1 percent.

Johnson noted the levy decrease is caused in part because of the decrease in home valuations.

Hirsch stated the proposed 2010 tax rate is 31.275 percent, which is less than the 2009 tax rate of 34.305 percent.

Brenno, resident, stated she did not think the City staff should receive a pay increase in 2010 because of the current economy. She also asked for clarification on the City's hours of operation.

Hirsch responded that the City has not increased the staff's benefit allowance in several years, even though the health insurance premiums have had significant increases. Hirsch stated the City now closes at noon on Fridays.

Johnson noted that the City staff had no increase in 2009, while West Hennepin Public Safety employees did. In 2010, WHPS employees will not have a cost of living increase.

Appelhof, resident, noted the staff members are taking a 10 percent cut in the amount of hours worked each week.

3. ADJOURN.

Motion by Wenck, second by Betts, to adjourn the Truth in Taxation meeting at 7:20 p.m. Ayes: Betts, Gyllenblad, Johnson and Wenck. Nays: none. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Scipioni, Recording Secretary

DRAFT