

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL  
August 12, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Tom Peterson	Mayor Pro Tem
	D.J. Bott	Councilmember
	Alden Farr	Councilmember
	Joe Olson	Councilmember <i>via Zoom</i>
	Robin Troxell	Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:	Christina Boss	City Recorder
	Dave Burnett	Power Director <i>via Zoom</i>
	Mike Christiansen	City Attorney
	Mike Nelsen	Police Chief
	Derek Oyler	Finance Director

EXCUSED:	Tyler Vincent	Mayor
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Mayor Pro Tem Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Reverence Period was given by Councilmember Bott and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Pro Tem Peterson excused Mayor Vincent from the meeting.

**TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Oyler approached the podium and displayed his presentation on the screen. He explained the historical data graph depicting the property tax rates. The proposed tax rate would remain the same as 2019 and 2020. Mr. Oyler pointed out that just over 60% of a citizen's property taxes go to the Box Elder School District while Brigham City receives approximately 15%.

Mr. Oyler reviewed the City's long-term initiatives:

- Attracting and retaining employees
  - Proposed 5% increase to bring salaries up from 91.5% of average salaries of comparable cities
- City roads and parking lots
- Airport capital projects
- Parks infrastructure

Mr. Oyler displayed a graph comparing the tax rates of surrounding cities which showed Logan and Willard as the only cities with a 2020 tax rate lower than Brigham City. He stated the Box Elder School District, Perry City, and Tremonton City were going through a truth in taxation process.

Keeping the tax rate the same as 2020 would generate an additional \$166,600 in the General Fund as compared to the prior year, of which \$41,588 represents new growth, and \$81,101 to the Library, of which \$19,897 represents new growth.

Mr. Oyler concluded his presentation with a comparison of four Brigham City home values illustrating the differences in dollar value of the current certified tax rate and the prior year tax rate.

**MOTION:** A motion to open the public hearing was made by Councilmember Bott seconded by Councilmember Farr and carried unanimously.

Bill Farmer – asked the Council to adopt the County Auditor’s certified tax rate due to citizen hardships with rising inflation.

Julianna Larsen – talked about the Council’s decision to go through the truth in taxation process every year so as to avoid imposing large tax increases on citizens. She also spoke about the burdens of the current economy and being fiscally responsible. She commented on the pickleball monument and transfers to the General Fund.

**MOTION:** A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilmember Farr, seconded by Councilmember Troxell and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Peterson confirmed that the City Council takes the economic situation into consideration when working on the budget.

Councilmember Troxell noted the Council has been working on the budget since January and stated many budget requests were not funded or were lowered. She also acknowledged citizen hardships with the current economy and state of the country. She encouraged citizens to look at the budget on the City website and welcomed any questions on specific line items.

Mayor Pro Tem Peterson reminded citizens that prior to 2019, the City went 18 years with no tax increases. During that time, shortages caused services to be cut or other fees to be raised to make up for inflation and CPI adjustments. He felt employees were the most valuable resource the City had and it was an injustice for employee compensation to be almost 10% below average salaries of comparable cities. He stated the cost to replace employees far exceeded the funds for the proposed wage increase.

Mayor Pro Tem Peterson addressed Ms. Larsen’s comment concerning the amount of money spent on the pickleball monument stating that contributions were made from a community partner. He also acknowledged transfers to the general fund stating those allow the City to have things like a senior center, recreation department, swimming pool, golf course and other amenities. He explained without a transfer to the General Fund either those amenities could not be offered, or property taxes would have to be raised.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

*The undersigned duly appointed Recorder for Brigham City Corporation hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete record of the August 12, 2021 City Council Meeting.*

*Dated this 3rd day of September 2021.*

*Christina Boss*

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*Christina Boss, Recorder*