

PERRY CITY COUNCIL
TRUTH IN TAXATION
MEETING PERRY CITY OFFICES
August 13, 2020

7:00 PM

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Jeppsen presided and conducted the meeting. Toby Wright, Andrew Watkins, Esther Montgomery, and Blake Ostler

OFFICIALS EXCUSED: Nathan Tueller

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Shanna Johnson, Chief Deputy Recorder
Robert Barnhill, City Administrator
Scott Hancey, Chief of Police
Bill Morris, City Attorney
Tyler Wagstaff, Public Works Director

OTHERS PRESENT: On Site: Tom Kotter, Box Elder County
Online: Nelson Phillips Box Elder News and Journal
Rick Palfreyman
Melanie Barnhill
Anonymous Citizen
Rick Scadden

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeppsen called the City Council meeting to order.

ITEM 2: PRESENTATION-PROPERTY TAX FOR 2020 TAX YEAR/FISCAL YEAR 2021

Shanna Johnson shared the presentation to the Council and the public that were present and reviewed the needs analysis/revenues with them. (See presentation in packet) She discussed in detail the capital improvement project lists from the department heads and she also discussed the 2019 transportation study that was done that reviewed the road service life for the City. She discussed how the money generated from the property tax increase would be used in fiscal year 2021.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC HEARING AND/ OR PUBLIC COMMENT

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Barnhill read the written comments that were sent into the City. Becky Pettingill wrote that she is deeply concerned as the Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone. She discussed the different businesses that have been affected and hurting from the pandemic. She discussed her concern that even with all the affects to the businesses in Perry due to the pandemic, that Perry would consider increasing the tax rate. She explained that the City would already be getting a windfall in tax revenue from the increased valuation of the homes and businesses in the City. She compared the increase in taxable value from her own tax notice. She expressed that the City would still be getting an increase if the City left the tax rate the same as last year and did nothing. She asked for the City to reconsider the tax increase during this time when many people have lost jobs

or have been furloughed and businesses have been closed. She stated that it is not a good time to do this.

Ron Cefalo wrote that he has owned his property for 40 years. He stated that his land is agricultural land, which part of it is wetlands. He has approximately 4 acres and he stated that his taxes went up by over 300 % this year. He stated that this is uncalled for and borders on robbery. He discussed being on a fixed income and that it will cost him \$924.23 more in taxes this year on agricultural land. He expressed his disappointment at the City or Mr. Kotter, from the County, stating that they need to rethink this increase.

Rick Palfreyman was online and stated he had similar concerns as Becky Pettingill, he said that his property tax went up a significant amount. He asked if the increases from the revaluation of property prior to the proposed additional tax increase had been taken into consideration. Mayor Jeppsen responded that the City is not able to respond to the Public Comments portion of the meeting. He said the City understands his concern and explained that the City was unaware of the property value increases that were made from the County. He said that if he has questions regarding his property value, he should discuss those questions with the County, as it is a separate issue. Mayor Jeppsen clarified that what the City is proposing is to keep the tax rate at the same rate as it was last year, not increasing the rate. Rick requested that the City Council get with the County and see what the new tax base is going to be with properties before increasing the tax rate.

Mayor Jeppsen closed the Public Comment section portion of the meeting.

ITEM 4: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Montgomery made a motion to adjourn the Truth in Taxation Meeting. Council Member Toby Wright seconded the motion.

Motion Approved. All Council Members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Susan Obray, City Recorder

Kevin Jeppsen, Mayor

Shanna Johnson, Chief Deputy Recorder