

CITY OF IVANHOE
PUBLIC HEARING
FY-2021 TAX RATE
MINUTES

August 13th, 2020
5:00 PM

Public Hearing on the proposed FY-2021 Tax Rate was called to order by Mayor Bennett at 5:00 PM. A Quorum was established with all Council members present. (Councilman Morris via phone). Councilman Vonderlin provided the invocation and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance. 9 individuals were on the city Facebook livestream.

Agenda Item #1 – Public hearing on proposed FY-2021 tax rate

Mayor Bennett read two comments she had received from the public via email: Robert & Susanne Keiffer said they will not support a tax rate increase. Stefanie George said property owners pay high taxes already and she votes no on a tax increase.

The Mayor provided a summary of the process for setting the budget and tax rate to support the budget. Council held a hearing yesterday on the proposed budget for the coming year. This evening is the public hearing on the tax rate.

Councilman Vonderlin issued the reminder that anyone submitting questions or comments via Facebook needs to stay on the topic of the tax rate.

Mayor Bennett explained that it was initially thought that the city would have to set the budget and tax rate by August 17th under the guidelines relating to Senate Bill 2 from the 2019 legislative session. Since the Council does not anticipate proposing a tax rate that would necessitate a special election, the date for final adoption of budget & tax rate could be held on September 29th.

Councilman Herrington commented that all of the proposed figures on the worksheet for various tax rates are below the current tax rate. The Mayor clarified that the proposed rate is below the current tax rate, the actual revenue generated would be more for any rate above the “no new revenue tax rate” of .67951 per hundred dollar value.

Councilman Herrington asked how much value is being held back by the Appraisal District due to pending appraisal reviews. Mayor Bennett responded that she had not received updated figures after the Chief Appraiser sent the certified estimate of value; the increase in values will result in the no new revenue rate.

Facebook post from Fred Trask: Request the Council adopt the tax rate that results in no new revenue. Mayor Bennett noted that Mr. Trask does not have the homestead exemption on his property.

Facebook post by Sarah Warren: Thanked Council for serving the citizens of Ivanhoe and commented that Ivanhoe is still a new city and Council is doing everything possible to build the city on a shoe string budget.

Facebook post by Debbie Peterson: Question-any update on collection of delinquent taxes? Mayor Bennett responded that the monthly spreadsheet shows the amount of taxes collected for current year as well as delinquencies. She then asked if anyone else on the Facebook livestream had other comments or questions regarding the proposed tax rate for FY-2021. There was no response. Councilman Vonderlin concluded the hearing saying that everyone who drives on the city streets knows how bad they are and the \$44,000 difference between the no new revenue tax rate and the proposed increase is a small price to pay to improve the city.

Agenda Item #2 – Action on the proposed FY-2021 Budget

Mayor Bennett explained that the Local Government Code which controls much of city government for smaller cities requires the Council to take action on the proposed tax rate at the conclusion of the public hearing. Councilman Vonderlin submitted the motion to postpone action on the proposed FY-2021 tax rate to September 29th at 6:30 PM. Councilman Herrington voiced the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 – Adjourn

Councilman Vonderlin made the motion to adjourn with a second by Councilman Warren and the meeting was concluded at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

C. D. Woodrome, City Secretary