

City Council
August 22, 2018

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 401 S. Rogers on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Kevin Strength, Mayor
David Hill, Mayor Pro Tem
Chuck Beatty, Councilmember
Mary Lou Shipley, Councilmember
Melissa Olson, Councilmember

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager
Albert Lawrence, Assistant City Manager
Lori Cartwright, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kevin Strength called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge of Allegiance

City Manager Michael Scott gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

4. First Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2018-2019

Mayor Strength opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Mr. Charles Harris, Director of Finance, reviewed the proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2018-2019 noting the tax rate for 2018 was 0.680000 and will remain the same for 2019. The total Operating and Maintenance Rate and Debt Rate remained the same for both periods. He restated that the tax rate did not increase for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Mr. Harris reviewed a Debt and Tax Rate comparison spreadsheet for area cities noting Waxahachie has the lower medium Operating and Maintenance Rate and Debt Rate.

Councilmember Melissa Olson asked what the effective tax rate for 2018-2019 is. Mr. Harris stated the effective tax rate for fiscal year 2018-2019 is 0.658557. He noted, as prescribed by the state, the effective rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the city of Waxahachie. Mr. Harris explained the report does not ensure the city can fund the same amount of services noting a consumer is paying 4% more for things you have to buy and getting 2% more revenue noting cost is going up.

Mr. Justin Meadors, 214 Boardwalk, Waxahachie, asked why the rate is going up.

Mr. Harris stated the city's tax rate is not going up and explained the effective rate is a calculation because property values go up.

Councilmember Olson stated the property taxes are through the Ellis County Appraisal District. She stated Council controls the tax rate and has the authority to lower the tax rate noting that is a request Mr. Meadors can make.

Mayor Strength stated Council does not control the values and explained that supply and demand controls the values of homes. He noted more people are moving into North Texas and we don't have enough housing, the supply is not there and the price goes up.

Ms. Gayle Smith, 116 North Star Lane, Waxahachie, stated property values are going up and she is watching her friends and family being taxed out of their homes. She stated Councilmember Olson has suggested bringing the tax rate down and Council said no.

Mayor Strength stated one cent of the tax rate on a \$200,000 home is \$1.18 to \$1.50 per month. He stated the interest rates are climbing and the city is still repairing streets noting if the tax rate decreases by one cent, streets will not get repaired.

There being no others to speak for or against the Public Hearing on the proposed Tax Rate for fiscal year 2018-2019, Mayor Strength closed the Public Hearing.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Comments by Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and City Manager

Councilmember Melissa Olson thanked Mr. Meadors for his words and Ms. Smith for speaking up. She stated councilmembers know her position on taxes and will continue to work with council to keep Waxahachie growing.

Councilmember Chuck Beatty stated Council will remain to be frugal and deliver a quality of life for the citizens.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilmember Chuck Beatty moved the meeting adjourn at 1:18 p.m. Councilmember Mary Lou Shipley seconded, All Ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cartwright
City Secretary