

UNAPPROVED

CITY OF BLAINE
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 8, 2016

8:00 P.M.
Council Chambers
10801 Town Square Drive

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Clark, Herbst, King, Swanson, Mayor Ryan, City Manager Clark Arneson, and City Attorney Tom Sweeney.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Bourke and Hovland.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Huss, Finance Director; Ward Brown, Budget/Fiscal Analyst; Bryan Schafer, Community Development Director; Bob Therres, Public Services Manager; Chris Olson, Safety Service Manager/Police Chief; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; and Catherine Sorensen, City Clerk.

8:00 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING AND ITEMS SET FOR A CERTAIN TIME

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

Mayor Ryan opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.

Finance Director Huss explained the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing was being held to take input from the public on the proposed budget and tax levy for 2017. He stated the Council has held monthly discussions about the proposed budget and tax levy since May. Finance Director Huss then provided the Council with a presentation on the 2017 Proposed Budget and Tax Levy.

Finance Director Huss described how property taxes were determined based on property values and the City's tax rate. He outlined Market Value Exclusion impacts and explained the Council's direction was to increase the tax levy for 2017 to a proposed 35.9%, which is the same combined overall rate as 2016. He was pleased to report that property values were recovering and have seen strong growth in the last two or three years. He reviewed the revenues and expenditures in further detail and reported Blaine had the fourth lowest tax rate in Anoka County. It was noted the majority of the General Fund expenditures are for public and safety services and discussed the five-year projection assumptions and concerns with the Council. He indicated the City's per capita spending remains below inflation. He explained the City was proud of the fact it had maintained its AA+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's. He indicated last Council meeting of 2017 would be held on Thursday, December 15th where the final levy would be approved.

As no one wished to appear, Mayor Ryan closed the public hearing at 8:24 p.m.

Councilmember Herbst asked if the projected debt service was considered in the budget and tax levy. Finance Director Huss reported this information was included and explained the City was in a very stable position for the next five years.

Mayor Ryan commented on the high volume of absentee voting in the recent election and that additional temporary staffing may be needed to accommodate increased voters.

Mayor Ryan said he was pleased to see that property values were recovering throughout the entire City.

OTHER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ryan adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Tom Ryan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Catherine Sorensen, City Clerk
Submitted by TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.