

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 29, 2007**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Don Orrock called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, Patricia May, and Don Orrock. Council Member Absent: Dick Backlund. Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Police Chief Sean Rifenberick, and City Clerk Gina Wolbeck.

**4. PROPOSED AGENDA**

Council Member Heitz motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

**5. BUSINESS**

**5A. TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING**

Finance Director Corey Boyer gave a presentation on the proposed 2008 General Fund Budget. Mr. Boyer reviewed expenditures and identified tax rate comparisons and informed Council that the City's Local Government Aid was reduced by \$93,819.00 for the upcoming year.

Mayor Orrock opened the Truth in Taxation hearing at 5:42 p.m.

James Lake; 21467 CR 73 - Questioned why the valuation on his residential property increased rather than decreased. Council informed Mr. Lake that residential valuations are considered at the Board of Review meeting in April.

Lester Tuft; 1350 Powell Street – Stated his concern with property values in the City. Council explained that the City has cut expenses to keep the tax rate at an even percentage.

Howard Skinner; 821 Lake Street – Questioned why the tax rate continues to increase if valuations have started to decrease. Council explained that the taxes payable for 2008 are based on valuations from August of 2006. Mr. Skinner stated that he feels his home is being over assessed. Council suggested that Mr. Skinner contact the Sherburne County Assessor's Office to discuss his valuation.

Chad Millbauer; 3121 Lake Ridge Drive – Questioned who is responsible to pay taxes for foreclosed properties and asked how much the City paid for the Esplanade project and what funds were used. Council explained that property taxes are generally paid by the mortgage company after a property is foreclosed on. Council also explained that the cost of the Esplanade project was approximately \$800,000 and that Park Dedication Fees were utilized to fund the project.

Council Member May motioned to close the public hearing at 5:57 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Council directed staff to proceed with the budget as discussed and to present the final levy/budget for consideration at the December 12, 2007 Council Meeting.

**6. ADJOURN**

Council Member Heitz motioned to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

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Gina Wolbeck  
Clerk

Date Approved By Council \_\_\_\_\_ 12/12/07