

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 29, 2006**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Don Orrock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, Duane Langsdorf, Patricia May, and Don Orrock. Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, 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 2007 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 \$150,000 for the upcoming year.

Mayor Orrock opened the Truth in Taxation hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Bob McDowall, 181 Hiawatha Avenue; Questioned the continuous increase in his commercial property taxes for McPete's Sports Bar and Lanes. Council informed Mr. McDowall that property value complaints are heard at the Board of Review Hearing in April. Mr. McDowall also

questioned why the City purchased the site of the new liquor store and stated his concern with the amount of the police department budget.

Steve McCain, 585 William Street; Questioned why the taxes on his new residential property increased substantially. Council informed Mr. McCain that residential valuations are considered at the Board of Review meeting in April.

John Alfords, 651 Eagle Lake Road; Stated his concern with the continued annual valuation increases on his multi-family residential units. Mr. Alfords was informed of the Board of Review Hearing in April.

Council Member Heitz motioned to close the public hearing at 7:29 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Langsdorf, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Dick Backlund, 5592 Aberdeen Way; Informed Council that it is his understanding that the new police department radio systems won't be necessary until at least 2008 – 2010. Mr. Backlund also stated his concern with scheduling of shifts in the police department. Council directed staff to provide clarification on the status of the required radio upgrades and staffing of police officers.

Council directed staff to proceed with the budget as discussed and to present the final levy/budget for consideration at the December 13, 2006 Council Meeting.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Langsdorf motioned to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Clerk

Date Approved By Council _____ 12/13/06