

9:00 am

Public Hearing

October 23, 2015

This Public Hearing to consider tax millage rate increase of .068 for 2015 was called to order by Mayor Schindler at 9:05 am on October 23, 2015. Those present, Mayor Schindler, members Carter and Rutland, Clerk Consultant and a number of citizens.

Mayor Schindler opened the meeting by explaining the taxing process, how values are determined, increase/decrease in taxable digest, etc. City is proposing to set 2015 millage rate at 6.552, same rate as 2014. This will result in a net tax increase of 0.68% for 2015, \$1,083 in increased revenue.

Mayor then opened the floor for citizens to speak. Ms. Martha Scanlon questioned who set property values, and set expenditures of City. Ms. Barbara Gronhahl asked total number of tax bills sent out for City property owners and asked Council to be mindful of all spending. She stated that "pennies and nickels saved turn into dollars", and there were many Lake Park Citizens living on a fixed income that cannot afford any additional taxes. Mayor Schindler was questioned about expense of several trees on city right of way being taken down now that are diseased and stated these costs are covered by SPLOST funds, not General Fund (taxes). Ms. Tina Raines questioned what costs were being taken out of property taxes received, and urged Council to cut back on the 2016 budget in all areas, possibility using Lowndes County Sheriff's office to help patrol in school zone. This brought on a lengthy discussion of what services the Lake Park citizens are getting from Lowndes County. Mr. Ken Arias stated he was opposed to any tax increase. Ms. Patricia Brown stated citizens should pay attention to the tax assessor's notice concerning the values of their property, and contact them with anything they felt was in error. Ms. Jena Sandlin

asked Council to consider working a contract with Lowndes County Sheriff's Dept. for police services and reduce the number of City police employees, if at all possible. Ms. Mary J. Yorke urged Council to decrease city's taxes, and take any shortfall of revenue from the City's fund balance (without over spending). She also mentioned she had talked with several citizens about being stopped by the Lake Park police force, without any reason. Mayor Schindler asked her to please let him know who they were, and if warranted he (Schindler) would talk with the Police Chief regarding this matter.

Mayor Schindler stated he had worked very hard since becoming Mayor to restore relationships with Lowndes County government, our local Chamber of Commerce, and State Representatives. He urged citizens present to attend the regularly scheduled Council meetings, that all decisions were made at these meetings and citizens input was appreciated. He also stated financial reports are always available for public inspection, and that two (2) more Public Hearings would be held in connection with the 2015 tax millage rate before it would be set on October 30, 2015.

There being no further business of this Public Hearing, hearing was closed at 10:35 am.

Read & approved Jacqueline Fowler Date 11-3-15



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October 23, 2015 @ 7:00 PM  
Public Hearing Minutes

This Public Hearing to consider tax millage rate increase of .068 for 2015 was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Ronald Carter at 7:00 PM on October 23, 2015. Those present, City Clerk, and a citizen.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter opened the floor for anyone whom wished to speak in favor or in opposition of the tax millage rate, there were none.

There being no further business of this Public Hearing, hearing was closed at 7:05 PM.

Read & approved Jacqueline Fowler Date 11-3-15