

COUNCIL CHAMBER CITY OF BELLEVUE, CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

The Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate of .3350 per hundred dollar valuation for real estate and .5000 of each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on personal property for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 for the City of Bellevue began at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Ed Riehl

Council Members: Brun, Rich, Poynter, Guidugli, Salzman and Slater.

The City Administrator read the legal notice advertising the Public Hearing.

FOR THE RECORD: Tammy Nolan, 520 Lafayette addressed Council:

Encouraged Council to vote no against a 4% property tax increase citing aging parents and high costs associated with medical and prescription drug coverage.

FOR THE RECORD: Arthur Casto, 154 Division addressed Council:

Against an increase in taxes as roads are in bad shape – does not see anything getting done. City should have an alternative plan before raising taxes.

FOR THE RECORD: Dave Baker, 528 Lafayette addressed Council:

Not seeing the improvements to justify the tax increase – streets in bad shape. Utility rate increases and County tax increases. City needs to have higher standards for the Utility companies when doing work in the City.

FOR THE RECORD: Bill Woody, 101 Ross addressed Council:

Thanked Council and staff for the work they do but opposed to a tax increase. Those on Social Security are receiving a small COLA increase if at all each year – proposed tax increase surpasses any SS increase.

FOR THE RECORD: Council Member Poynter expressed the following concerns:

Stated he would like to see more residents get involved in the Public Hearing process. Member Poynter stated he opposes the proposed rate increase and cited issues with the purchase of Red Bikes, parks such as Swope Park benches are a hazard with holes and rusted condition. Lack of supervision and follow up with General Services. Concerns that the current Public Service fee already includes budgeted General Fund items, Bonnie Leslie issues, Marianne Theatre – purchase price plus current expenses will the City be able to recoup the expenses? Current advertising on storefronts on Fairfield. Member Poynter stated he opposes the proposed rate and suggested a clean-up of the city in a timely manner.

FOR THE RECORD: Council Member Brun expressed the following:

Current problem facing Council is if Council votes against the tax increase what will be cut from the budget which was created based on the 4% tax increase. Member Brun stated he is not sure how he is going to vote on the tax rate but encouraged Council to be prepared to make cuts or find money to collect.

- FOR THE RECORD: Member Poynter stated he has tried to save money over his term of office and will continue to do so – City needs to tighten budget and has to work with utility companies to put streets back properly when finished – supervision needed.
- FOR THE RECORD: Member Guidugli stated those who voted for the current budget voted for the 4% tax increase as it was included in the budget document.
- FOR THE RECORD: Member Rich stated she is still angry that the City did not get the 1 million for Lincoln Road – Money is in the 6 year road plan for the State.
- FOR THE RECORD: Vicky Poynter, 335 Locust requested Council prepare two budgets in the future to be able to compare with and without the 4% tax increase for transparency purposes and resident understanding.
- FOR THE RECORD: Member Rich questioned the carryover from the previous year – Administrator Spoelker will supply.
- FOR THE RECORD: Member Slater requested Council consideration for discussion on the tax rate to be held in conjunction with the budget process.
- FOR THE RECORD: Member Poynter stated budget amendments should occur before the end of the fiscal year and before items are purchased.
- FOR THE RECORD; Member Salzman encouraged anyone who would like to have a conversation about the budget to contact him.
- FOR THE RECORD: Member Slater encouraged Council to consider those residents who are struggling to pay bills.

There being no further comments the Public Hearing adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Mayor, Ed Riehl

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Mary H. Scott