

CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
Public Hearing Minutes
September 16, 2021
Approved: October 5, 2021

On September 16, 2021 at 6:31 p.m., Mayor Meyers called the Public Hearing to order at 176 Johns Hill Road.

Public Hearing: Mayor Meyers announced the purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate.

Notification Process: Notification of the Public Hearing was published in the Campbell County Recorder on September 2, 2021 and September 9, 2021 as required by the Kentucky General Assembly; notice was posted on the front door of the City Building and on the City's Facebook page and website.

Comments from the Public: One person attended the public hearing but he did not have comments.

Comments from the Mayor: Deferred to City Administrator, Michael Giffen, to discuss his report.

- Mr. Giffen's recommendation is to take the 4% increase over the compensating rate. Rationale:
 - Currently, property tax accounts for about 12% of the city's annual revenue; he would like to get to 25%. This needs to be done in small, incremental increases.
 - Bond financing – lending institutions look at the revenue brought in from real property tax. Should the City need to generate more revenue to cover bond, lending institutions look at the percentage of revenue generated from real property tax. At the current rate of 12%, it could impact the city's ability to get a better bond rating.
 - A 4% increase would be a low burden for property owners.
- Mayor Meyers has sat in on calls for bond financing. The city's low revenue percentage from property tax was our Achilles heel when trying to obtain bond financing for city building and public works building.

Comments from Council

Mr. Virgil Miller

- We have lost income from payroll tax due to loss of employees at businesses.
- Commercial property – we don't know if business will be in operation in the future.
- Property tax is guaranteed income.
- We don't want to lose police, city services, opportunities for growth, because we need to cut the budget due to lack of funds.
- There are unexpected expenses such as the land slide that was just repaired. Additionally, Carmack Park needed new playground equipment.

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- Mr. Miller stated he can't see that we should go backward or stay the same – if another big project comes along, we need to have the funds to cover it so that we would not need to take a loan and pay interest.

Ms. Rene Heinrich

- Her discussion with Jim Parsons reinforced the need for a good bond revenue rating which can be very affected by low percentage of money coming in from property base. Need to be good stewards and plan for the future.
- Mayor Meyers mentioned the desire to bury the power lines along US 27. The city may want to finance this through bonds.

Ms. Deb Ball

- Questions about the grant money coming into the city.
- Mentioned the tax increase to some neighbors and they seemed fine with it.

Mr. John Hoffert

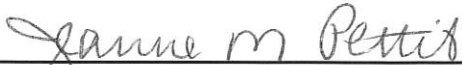
- Talked with approximately 12 residents. They want Highland Heights to be a great city and understand it takes money to make that happen. They are okay with an increase to make that happen.


Mayor Meyers reported that action will be taken at a special meeting of council, immediately following the public hearing.

Adjournment

- **Action Taken:** Member Hoffert made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Seconded by Member Virgil Miller. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

The public hearing adjourned at approximately 6:46 p.m. on Thursday, September 16, 2021.

Submitted by: 
Jeanne M. Pettit, City Clerk/Treasurer

Signed: 
Gregory V. Meyers, Mayor