**PUBLIC HEARING-MILLAGE RATE**

**Thursday July 28, 2022 6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Jonathan Pou, Roger Fortson, Ray Thomas, Greg Magrum, Dale Perry: City Attorney, Kerri-Lynn Phillips, Tony Mattox, Vicky Smith, attached list

Presentation of Current 2022 Tax Digest and 5-Year History and Calculation of Percentage Increase of Property Taxes.

**Public Input**

Discussion on home values and millage rate.

Motion to Adjourn: Greg Magrum; Seconded by: Roger Fortson; all approved.

**SPECIAL CALLED COUNCILE MEETING-MILLAGE RATE**

**Thursday July 28, 2022 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Jonathan Pou, Roger Fortson, Ray Thomas, Greg Magrum, Dale Perry: City Attorney, Kerri-Lynn Phillips, Tony Mattox, Vicky Smith, attached list

Call to Order-Jonathan Pou

Prayer-Blake Smith

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval July 11 Council Meeting Minutes-Motion to Approve-Roger Fortson; Seconded by: Greg Magrum; All approved.

Adoption of July 28 Agenda-Motion to Amend the Agenda to remove Brandi Hallan due to COVID: Greg Magrum; Seconded by Roger Fortson.

Motion to Approve Agenda-Greg Magrum; Seconded by Roger Fortson; All approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion about millage rate. Ray Thomas motioned to roll the rate back to 2.105. No second.

Greg Magrum motioned to keep the millage rate at 2.69. Roger Fortson seconded the motion.

Ray Thomas opposed the motion.

Greg Magrum read aloud and discussed the park agreement and its Board and Committee. Dale Perry stated he was not consulted about the drawing up of the agreement and asked who the City would be dealing with—a committee or a board, and also the reason it was set up as a separate entity. Cynthia Fortson questioned who will actually own the property—the City or Park Committee. Greg Magrum and Jonathan Pou both spoke on the benefits of park development and having the status of a 503(c) organization. Greg Magrum stated that in order to proceed, an agreement had to be on paper and asked Dale Perry to read over the contract and make any necessary changes to its content.

Roger Fortson made a motion to approve and Greg Magrum seconded the motion. Ray Thomas opposed the motion.

Dale Perry began discussion about possible legal issues if the City lifts the moratorium on rezoning and recommended having our zoning codes updated to match the county’s codes. Greg Magrum questioned how long it would take and how much it would cost. Jonathan Pou looked back on a quote that had been issued and stated that it was quoted at a flat fee of $8,000 plus travel and expenses. The project would most likely be done in approximately five to six months. The issue was tabled until further information could be sought out.

Advertising Assistant Clerk position opening

Upon Mrs. Vicky’s retirement at the end of July, Kerri-Lynn Phillips was appointed as Head Clerk during the July 11th meeting. The Assistant Clerk position will be vacant beginning August 1, 2022. The office will advertise the job opening on the City’s website, Facebook page, and Chamber of Commerce.

**OLD BUSINESS**

5th Avenue Drainage-Table for further discussion.

L.O.S.T. Contract Approval

The Local Option Sales Tax contract gets renewed every ten years. On the current contract, the county receives 74% of tax revenue and our local cities receive 26%. Colbert’s portion received is 5.5%, which is actually more than what is legally required. Greg Magrum made a motion to approve the contract; Roger Fortson seconded the motion. All approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Comments

ARP Fund account has been verified and they report the funds should be received within fourteen business days. Also, trees that had fallen behind the old school and vendor field during last week’s thunderstorms have been cleared as well by Fields Land Management and Tiller Services LLC.

The Council also presented Mrs. Vicky with a card of appreciation and a retirement gift card to Belk’s for $200.

Greg Magrum stated that he had met with an engineer about grants for Meadow Avenue.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Cynthia Fortson asked about the removed item from the agenda, Brandi Hallan, and voiced her concerns about whether the citizens of Colbert would have input about the office of the Depot being rented out to a private party. Further discussion was made by Ellyn Trinrud about the historical nature of the Depot; Greg Magrum spoke in favor of keeping all historical aspects of the Depot, as well as Jonathan Pou. Further discussion will be made at a later council meeting.

No further public input.

Jonathan Pou reminded the attendees about Monday nights (August 1) Comprehensive Plan meeting to be held in the auditorium at 6 p.m.

Motion to Enter Executive Session made by Greg Magrum, and was seconded by Roger Fortson.

Return from Executive Session

Motion to withdraw engagement letter with Woody McNair, City Auditor, and hire a replacement made by Greg Magrum and was seconded by Ray Thomas. Roger Fortson was opposed.

Motion to adjourn made by Roger Fortson, and was seconded by Ray Thomas; all approved.