

CITY OF PARK RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA, PUBLIC HEARING and SPECIAL MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018 AT 7:00 PM.

Published Subject to the Governing Body's Review and Revision

Mayor Stenvold called the special meeting to order stating the purpose was to conduct a Public Hearing to allow the public a chance to comment on or protest the proposed 10.12 mill/ 12.25% City tax levy increase for the 2019 budget year and other agenda items.

Present: Council members: Lorton, Halvorson, Miller, Lundquist, Kubat, and Anderson, City Attorney Laaveg, PWD Larson, City Coordinator/Auditor Thompson, and Assessor/Deputy Auditor Berg. Absent: None. Others present: Eugene Bossert, Dale & Jenny Holand, Tom & Shelly Burchill, Jim Praska, Joan Swartz, June Ellingson, Richard O'Shea, and Patty Hensel. Dean Skjerven arrived at 7:27 pm.

Mayor Stenvold informed those present that after the preliminary budget was approved the WC Auditor notified the City the maximum mill levy of 105 had been exceeded. Berg spoke with the WC Auditor & Tax Director and discovered an incorrect valuation was given to the City as credits and other decreases had not been deducted from the amount. The correct valuation is \$2,618,919; City mills are only worth \$2,618.92 per mill vs \$2,885.35 per mill and \$2,885,35 total valuation the City was given prior to preparing the preliminary budget with an estimated 99 mills levied. Stenvold opened the hearing for public comments.

Residents present questioned why the Estimated Property Tax notice showed such a large increase; why other cities taxes were lower; asked about having an outside consulting firm come in rather than having the City Assessor work on the assessments which they felt would take too long to complete.

Miller explained when figuring the preliminary budget, the City needs to estimate high as after the preliminary budget is approved the City cannot increase the budget but is only allowed to make reductions per NDCC. City Administration informed those present that a police vehicle is scheduled to be purchased which added \$30,000 to the budget along with an increase of \$30,000 which PWD Larson budgeted for a new building.

Stenvold responded to the assessment question and informed those present that having an outside firm come in could run as high as \$200,000 and the City cannot afford to have this done. He explained the City appointed Berg as the City Assessor and had her complete assessment certification. She is working on updating information and valuations on property located within City limits. Berg noted this will take some time as in the past assessment visits had been neglected.

Lundquist asked if the City should hold a public meeting and invite WC Tax Director Ed Sevigny to help explain the valuation and the assessment process.

City Administration has cut \$14,368 off the approved preliminary budget reducing the levied funds to \$274,986. This brought the mill total down to the 105-mill maximum.

Stenvold spoke with department heads and PWD Larson removed a \$30,000 request for a new payloader. This reduces the preliminary budget from \$289,354 to \$244,986 cutting approximately 11.45 mills and \$44,368 off the proposed preliminary budget bringing mills levied to 93.544.

Mayor Stenvold called for a motion. Halvorson moved and Lundquist seconded to approve the 2019 final budget of \$244,986 with 93.544 mills levied. Upon roll call vote, Lorton, Halvorson, Lundquist, Kubat and Anderson voted aye with Miller voting no. M/C.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Dan Stenvold, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ann Berg, Assessor/Deputy Auditor