

TRUTH IN TAXATION
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2005
6:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joy Bertsinger called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joy Bertsinger, Jackie Hall, Scott Keigley, Kevin McDermott, Tom Novak, Clerk Nymann, city residents.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

Dan Ondler 135 Ave SW

Danny stated that he went to the Olmsted County Public Hearing, and wondered why the property values in Oronoco went down. Bertsinger stated that property values are set at April Public Hearing. Discussion on roads and how that it is paid for. The street pavement project is budgeted for each year. Danny asked about how the overpass will impact property taxes in the future. Bertsinger stated that the overpass project will cost an estimated \$329,000 with a loan from the State of MN; during the 1st year (2006) the City will pay \$654 and the following years, will be at about \$40,000. Also the City is hoping new homes will help offset this cost.

Larry Stolp 410 1st Ave. NE

His Stolp Construction business building on the corner of 5th St NW and Olmsted County 18 Building on corner went up 34 & 3/10 percent (\$436). Bertsinger asked Larry if the City tax went up? Larry stated that the market value of the business increased. He said that he doesn't understand why the County went up so much, and thinks it is way excessive. Home one went up 5 1/10 %. Also, 3 lots of undeveloped property increased. Bertsinger reminded Larry that the meeting for discussion on property value with the County is at the April meeting. And, that the City can't change the value of the property. Larry stated that land is not sellable, and landlocked. Bertsinger stated that tonight's meeting is about next year's budget. It was suggested for Larry to speak to Dan Hall at Olmsted County Property Records. Larry knows there's a lot that the city has to pay for, but would like to see the west frontage road go through, and knows that somebody has to pay for it.

Carl Stolp, rep. Mable Stolp 540 Hwy 52 North

School District increase is outrageous and asked what's covered under the 'local levies'. Bertsinger suggested that Carl contact the Pine Island School District (their TNT Public Hearing was back on December 8th).

Todd Hinsch 810 West Center St.

Todd suggested the City could save money when they resurface, to not paint the center no passing lines down West Center Street. He said that people won't move over when people are walking along the side of the road. He also said that OCSO is worth money, but was confused when one officer told him that they have difficult hours, and only have 14 hours per week out here. They are

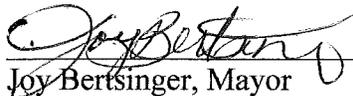
scheduled for 20 hours in Oronoco. Clerk Nymann will check on the hours they have been in Oronoco.

Bertsinger stated that the City is currently at a tax capacity rate of 40.85%; League of MN Cities hasn't factored in 2006 yet. Big budget items, and the City's the tax percentage has not increased' instead new homes have helped offset the budget increases. This year, the City is putting \$10-\$14 thousand dollars away for parks. She reported that the money is being set aside for Community Center Capital improvements, and future roads repairs. The budget took into consideration increases in heating. Planning & Zoning changes increased for anticipated Ordinance changes. Planning & Zoning is looking at changing some fees that come into the city. There's been an increase in payroll. Bertsinger asked for comments from council. Novak commented that most of the tax base is from residential homes, very little from commercial businesses. The 2 new businesses won't be on the tax roll until 2007. The increase in homes has helped the city with it's increase in expenses. There have been LGA decreases statewide.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Bertsinger motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm, Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:


Joy Bertsinger, Mayor

Cheryl Nymann, Clerk/Treasurer