

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
2019 MILLAGE RATE AND TAX DIGEST
3RD PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 25, 2019

CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

The Called Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cleveland was called to order by Mayor Shan Ash at 9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Nan Bowen, Annie Sutton, Kevin Stanley, and Bradley Greene.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the agenda for the Called Council Meeting of July 25, 2019.

2019 MILLAGE RATE AND DIGEST – PUBLIC HEARING AND DISCUSSION – 3RD CONSIDERATION

Mayor Ash opened the meeting for public discussion on the proposed 2019 millage rate increase from 5.899 to 6.00.

Ms. Tedi Boling, resident, expressed her concerns of the need for the increase in the millage rate. Ms. Boling purchased a home on Campbell Street in 2017 and has concerns over the increases of property taxes. Ms. Boling asked if the city has evaluated its wants and needs and if the city had a grant analyst to find funding for the city. Ms. Boling also questioned where would the funding go other than public safety, public works, and administration, as stated in the millage rate ad.

Mr. Bradley Greene responded the city does not plan to issue increases other than the annual cost of living. Mr. Greene feels the city has created a conservative budget and is using the city's fund reserve to balance which helps keep the millage as low as it is. In Mr. Greene's opinion, he does not agree the city should continue to use its fund reserve to balance the budget. The fund reserve is meant to be used for operating emergencies or when other revenues are low. Mr. Greene added there is no "fat" in the budget and every department is working on a slim budget with small crews.

Mr. Kevin Stanley informed the costs of operating have increased as well. Materials and equipment cost have increased in which the city has to accommodate. Mr. Stanley added the city provides police, fire, streets, and other city services. Ms. Boling expressed she did not feel the city was doing its job with maintaining streets. Ms. Boling informed there were street signs that were faded and needed to be replaced. She indicated the public works department was not doing its job by driving through town and noting repairs. Ms. Boling was informed the city welcomes comments and suggestions from the public as the city crews cannot be everywhere. Ms. Boling did not feel that should be public's responsibility. Ms. Nan Bowen responded the city crews are not sitting at the shop twiddling their thumbs. They have numerous job duties and work with small crews.

2019 MILLAGE RATE AND DIGEST – PUBLIC HEARING AND DISCUSSION – 3RD
CONSIDERATION – consideration

Ms. Boling stated she did not think they were sitting around but should grid out the city to make note of needed repairs. Ms. Boling stated she is not a complainer but sees herself as a helper. Ms. Boling mentioned the street being in horrible condition near her home. Mr. Tom O'Bryant, familiar with the area, informed the street is owned by the developer and has not been deeded to the city for ownership. Mr. O'Bryant stated the street will not be accepted by the city until the developer brings the street up to city specifications. The developer is aware of the conditions. Mr. O'Bryant offered to meet with Ms. Boling to go discuss her concerns. Ms. Boling stated she feels the council has made their mind up on the millage and it does not matter what she says.

Mayor Ash stated he is against the millage rate increase and feels this is the year to take the roll back. In his opinion, the city has seen an increase in revenues.

Ms. Boling stated she will attend more meetings to keep informed of what is going on. Ms. Bowen stated the squeaky wheel gets the grease and Ms. Boling replied "doubt it".

The Council was not asked by Mayor Ash for comment on the millage rate.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, the City Council voted to accept the third consideration of the 2019 Millage Rate and Tax Digest from 5.899 to 6.00.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the Called City Council Meeting, Third Public Hearing 2019 Millage Rate and Tax Digest at 9:22 a.m.

Not present to sign

Shan Ash,

Mayor

Kevin Stanley,

Council Member

Nan Bowen,

Council Member

Bradley Greene,

Council Member

Annie Sutton,

Council Member

Attest:

Connie Tracas,

City Clerk

Approved by City Council August 5, 2019

