

**City of Hill City**  
**Truth in Taxation and Regular Council Meeting**  
**December 20, 2016**

**Truth in Taxation Meeting**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Baker called the Truth in Taxation meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room. Members present: Larry Baker, Dave Lange and Nate Rollins. Audrey Baratto and Tina Haugen were absent.

Clerk McManigle gave an overview of the budget process beginning with the setting of the proposed levy and why it was so high. Clerk McManigle also explained that the final levy has not been raised in nine (9) years and that the city has been using reserve funds to cover the shortages. At the Budget Workshop that was held on Dec. 6, 2016, the Council felt that they would have to start raising the levy a little to start covering some of the shortfall. The proposed levy was set at \$412,000.00 and the Council is looking at raising the final levy from \$243,922.45 to \$250,000.00, a 2.4% increase from last year.

The Council answered questions from citizens that were present and all seemed satisfied with the answers and did not seem to have any issues with a 2.4% increase for 2017.

Mayor Baker adjourned the Truth in Taxation meeting at 6:09 p.m.

**Regular Council Meeting**

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

A. Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

B. The following persons were present: Mayor Larry Baker, Council Members: Dave Lange and Nate Rollins. Audrey Baratto and Tina Haugen were absent.

**2. Consent Agenda**

Motion made Rollins to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**3. Public Forum**

**A. Chappy's – Rezoning to Commercial**

Trish Olson requested that this be tabled until the January 10, 2017 meeting.

**4. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

**5. Reports**

**Maintenance/Water/Sewer/Parks/Airport/Street**

- George Casper reported that they have been doing some maintenance on the big generator.
- Another sewer pump went down and had to be replaced.
- Casper had closed the airport because of the snow and the ground being too soft to plow. It was reopened on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Casper told the first heavy snow took almost 4 full days to get cleaned up. This was the longest time ever to get snow cleared. Casper also explained that with heavy snow they get out as soon as it is safe and open the streets as fast as they can.
- Casper explained that on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> he had an incident with the 1 ton truck and plow. The plow had broken off and it was run over by the truck. Casper had gotten 2 bids on a new plow and they came in

within \$10.00 apart. There was approximately \$1,300.00 worth of damage done to the 1 ton truck. The new plow should be here tomorrow (12/21/16).

### **Fire Department**

- Ron Saxton from the Fire Dept. stated that the Fire Dept. would like to add Sawyer Passig and Johnny Kingsley onto the department.

Motion made by Rollins to add Sawyer Passig and Johnny Kingsley onto the Fire Dept., second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Ron Saxton also let the Council know that the Fire Dept. had held elections and the officers elected were: Fire Chief – Jeremy Nelson, Asst. Fire Chief – Ron Saxton, Captains – George Casper, Alan Myers, Greg Payment and Matt Huseby.

Motion made by Baker to approve the Fire Dept. officers as elected, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Ron Saxton also let the Council know that the department would like to have the retirement raised from \$700.00 per year to \$800.00 per year.

Motion made by Baker to increase the Fire Dept. retirement from \$700.00 per year to \$800.00 per year, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Ron Saxton (also on the Fire Dept. Building Committee), also let the Council know that the fire hall addition was almost complete. There would be another walk-through tomorrow (12/21/16) at 8:00 a.m. There have been a few problems but those are being addressed.
- Dan Kingsley from the Fire Dept. (also on the Fire Dept. Building Committee), recommended to the Council that no more payments are made to the Baratto Brothers until supporting documentation has been provided.
- Dan Kingsley also explained the 5% hold back on payments and what that is intended for.
- Dan Kingsley stated that the Baratto Brothers had fired the carpenters last Friday and were going to finish up themselves.

### **Police Department**

- Police Chief Josh Kimball gave the November activities report.
- Chief Kimball let the Council know that the Hill City Lion's Club had donated \$5,000.00 towards two new speed signs but he was still short \$2,160.00 to purchase the signs.

Motion made by Rollins for the city to put in the \$2,160.00 to purchase the speed signs, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Chief Kimball stated that he would like to have the part-time Police Officers reapply for their positions annually.

Motion made by Baker to have the part-time Police Officers apply annually, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

- Chief Kimball let the Council know the Ron Saxton and himself will be hosting an AR15 training class for law enforcement and military at the Fire Hall in March 2017.
- The lease for the camera's in the squad cars is done and should be receiving the camera's the first week of January.

- Council member Lange questioned if it would be more beneficial for the city to have Jeff Madsen work more hours this winter versus paying him unemployment. This was discussed with nothing being decided.

### **Mayor**

Mayor Baker said that this year the city had went through a couple of bad storms and that everyone had done an excellent job at getting everything back to “normal”.

### **Clerk**

- Clerk McManigle said that the office was just starting a very busy time of the year with month end, quarter end and year end activities and getting everything ready for the auditor.

### **Council**

The Council had nothing to report.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Responders**

- Ron Saxton reported that there is going to be classes given to become a 1<sup>st</sup> Responder and that there are 11 people already signed up for the classes. If anyone is interested in becoming a 1<sup>st</sup> Responder they can contact Tami Meyer at City Hall at (218)697-2301.

Dan Kingsley reported that the snowmobile club is still clearing trails and because of the soft ground they have not been able to groom the trails. Because of the wind storm this last summer, not all of the trails are open yet and there are still trees that tipping over because of the moist ground. At this time it is ride at your own risk.

### **Committee Reports**

**Personnel** – There was nothing to report

**Facilities/Equipment** – There was nothing to report

**Land Use** – There was nothing to report.

## **6. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Approve PC Refresh Invoice**

Motion made by Baker to approve the PC Refresh bill in the amount of \$200.00, second by Lange. Baker voted yes, Lange voted yes, Rollins abstained. Motion carried.

### **B. Pre-approve Clerk McManigle to monthly pay Marco bill of \$107.63**

Motion made by Rollins to have Clerk McManigle monthly pay the Marco bill of \$107.63, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

### **C. Approve 2017 Budget**

Motion made by Baker to approve the 2017 Budget as presented, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

### **D. Approve Resolution #2016-19, Finalizing 2017 Tax Levy**

Motion made by Rollins to approve the 2017 Tax Levy with a 2.4% increase from 2016, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

George Casper thanked Nate Rollins for the time that he served on the Council and said that he would thank Audrey Baratto also, but she was not at the meeting. George also thanked Terry Christensen and Marci Holm for them joining the Council in January.

Nate Rollins said that even though he will be off the Council, he would like to be on some committees if possible.

Dan Kingsley said that from the wind storm from July that the undeveloped part of Water Street that is just north of his garage is a total disaster. Dan wanted permission from the Council to clean up the area of the downed trees.

Motion made by Rollins to sell Dan Kingsley a Timber Lic. for a \$1.00 to clean up the undeveloped portion of Water Street to the north of Kingsley's garage, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Motion made by Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

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Larry Baker, Mayor