



BROOKS TOWN PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

MINUTES

October 23, 2024

Mayor Langford led the Invocation and the Pledge and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor: Daniel Langford

Council Members Present: Ted Britt
Kay Brumbelow
Brian Davis
Scott Israel
Todd Speer

The proposed Agenda for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, was emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Council Member Scott Israel made a motion to approve the agenda; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Public Hearing: Notice of Property Tax Increase / 2024 Millage Rate – Opened at 5:05 p.m.
Closed at 5:20 p.m.**

Notice of Property Tax Increase / 2024 Millage Rate – Third Reading

L. Spohr presented a presentation on the 2024 Tax Digest/Millage Rate. The presentation showed the five-year tax history and the value of one mill for 2024 (\$54,978), the millage values for both 1.207 mills (\$66,358) and a rollback rate of 1.129 mills (\$62,070). 1.207 mills would provide additional revenue of \$4,748 vs 1.129 mills would provide additional revenue of \$460. The FY2025 approved budget amount for property tax is \$61,610. A comparison of the rollback rate of 1.129 mills vs. 1.207 mills was presented regarding how it would affect six properties within the Town of Brooks. L. Spohr stated that it was the recommendation of the Town staff to keep the millage rate at 1.207 mills as it will partially offset the approved fund balance expenditures that have occurred since July 1, 2024, in the amount of \$16,200.

Mayor Langford stated that he does not have a vote unless there is a tie. However, as a citizen, if we go with the same millage rate of 1.207 mills that we've had for the past two years, the town will collect just over \$66,358 against a budget amount of \$61,610, which is more than enough to meet the budget. If we do the rollback rate of 1.129 mills, the town will collect \$62,070, which also covers the budget of \$61,610.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any questions from the council or the public.

Philip Bradley – 130 Brooks Rd. – Reviewing the five-year tax history, if you look at the net year digest from 2020 to 2024, there is a 47% increase in five years; if you look at the net M&O millage rate from 2020 to 2024, it has increased by 99% or doubled in five years. Net taxes levied a 143% increase of 1.5 times in five years, and the net tax dollar increase is 244%, 2.5 times what it was five years ago. These increases don't happen in a vacuum; we all feel the pinch. If the rollback rate covers all budget expenses, why not give the taxpayers a break?

Aaron Edge, 113 McIntosh Rd, asked if the mayor could explain the state law regarding the new tax increase that will be voted on in November.

Mayor Langford stated that Mr. Bradley corrected him on one thing: if the new law passes, it will limit the amount the assessed value can increase each year to whatever the CPI is, and that property evaluation in the county will be limited by what is allowed. Mayor Langford stated he originally thought the total property tax would be limited to CPI, but this is not the case per Mr. Bradely's research.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any other comments.

With hearing none, Mayor Langford closed the public hearing.

Mayor Langford asked if there was a motion with respect to the adoption of the 2024 millage rate. Council Member Brian Davis made a motion that we approve the 2024 millage rate as presented at 1.207 mills. Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion; Mayor Langford asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, a vote was taken for all in favor, saying aye, both Council Member Brian Davis and Todd Speer said aye; those opposed; Council Members Scott Israel, Kay Brumbelow, and Ted Britt opposed. The motion was defeated.

Mayor Langford asked for another motion. Council Member Ted Britt made a motion to roll back the millage rate to 1.129 mills. Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye. Council Members Ted Britt, Scott Israel, and Kay Brumbelow said aye. Those opposed were Council Members Brian Davis and Todd Speer. The rollback millage rate of 1.129 mills passed.

Council Member Ted Britt said that if we come back next year and we have to raise the millage rate, what will we get from everyone then? We may have to because we don't know what next year will look like. Our administration recommended we leave it like it was, so we have gone against them. The citizens have expressed their desires, and I think it's the right thing to do.

Adjourn:

Mayor Langford adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorey Spohr
Town Clerk