

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE 2023 TAX LEVY

September 22, 2023 –6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

PRESENT:

City Manager, Christian Drake
City Clerk, Lisa Austin
Council Member Bennett Adams

Police Chief, Nealie McCormick
Citizen, Jean Melnick

****Mayor Eubanks, Mayor Pro-Tem Brown, Council Member Shiver, Council Member Davis, Council Member Brown, and Council Member Robinson, and was absent from the meeting****

3rd PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Drake called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. This is the 3rd public hearing held to discuss the 2023 Tax Levy. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss and hear public concerns about the 2023 millage rate.

City Manager Drake explains the council is aiming to adopt a tax rate of 17.0 mills, which is the same rate the city has had for the past two years. Due to an increased tax digest resulting from reassessing local property, this rate will boost city revenues by a projected \$135,424. Additionally, it's worth noting that the increase in property value, which contributed to the higher tax revenue, was not unique to Pelham. Rather, it was a statewide mandate. Many areas across the state experienced a similar rise in property values due to reassessments.

City Manager Drake mentioned that if the rate remains at 17 mills, this additional revenue would be used to assist in staffing the fire department and improving its ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating. While its additional revenue would be helpful, Drake also acknowledged that it is only about half of what's needed for the fire department's staffing requirements.

If the Pelham City Schools Board of Education approves an 8.645 mill tax rate, the combined tax rate for city residents for 2023 will be 25.645 mills.

Citizen Jean Melnick asked questions about how the assessed value of houses were calculated. She asked several questions regarding the tax increase and how she felt it was not a fair assessment of her property.

The public hearing was declared closed at 6:25 p.m. by City Manager Drake.