

City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois
Truth in Taxation Public Hearing
December 13, 2016
5:45 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met in a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing on Tuesday December 13, 2016 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Kathy Carroll-Duda called the Public Hearing to order at 5:47 pm. Aldermen James Roodhouse, Brenda Johnson, Bob Wachtel, Martin Rothschild, Jason Robinson, Kent Anderson were present. Paula Simosky and Sue Garlick were absent. Others in attendance included, Administrator Kotter, City Attorney Derke Price, City Clerk Loree K Phlypo, Director of Electrical Operations Opsal, Director of Public Works Chad VanDeWoestyne, Chief Piotrowski, Finance Director Wiesemeyer, HR Generalist Brandon Maeglin, Inspector Rick Mills, IT Manager Garrett Griswold, Shelley Anderson, Wayne Anderson and Jim Burke. There was a quorum.

Public Comment

None

Public Discussion on proposed Tax Levy Increase for the City of Geneseo for 2016

Mayor Carroll-Duda opened the floor to the Public for any comments on the proposed tax levy increase. Shelly Anderson sited Illinois property taxes are 2.5% higher than other states, higher than Bettendorf and LeClaire, families will have to go from single family homes to multifamily units do to rent increases to cover property tax increases. She commented that the current employee pension system is unsustainable, continuing to come to the well of the taxpayers is going to go dry. Jim Burke reported that he lives on a fixed income and a budget and the City needs to learn to, raising taxes is not the answer. Wayne Anderson sited that going to the tax payers is wrong. City Attorney Price added the Police Pension is not changeable and right now the City is at 50% funded and by 2040 it needs to be at 90% funded by law. Administrator Kotter reported that property tax is not the highest source of revenue, sales tax is and the City has less employees than it has had in the past years. City services would have to be cut if property taxes aren't increased. Our rate of liability that we carry will start to affect our bond rating and will cost us in higher interest rate for future bonding. Kathy Allen added that she feels that the City is careful about how they spend their money and that the State is forcing the City to fund the Police Pension at this level. Kotter added that the 3 funds that this increase will cover are Social Security IMRF and Police Pension, the City doesn't have a choice we have to fund these 3.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Roodhouse to adjourn the meeting at 6:13PM.

Voice Vote. 6Ayes. 0 Nays. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree K Phlypo
City Clerk