

**MINUTES OF
HARRISVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Public Hearing
August 2 2022
363 West Independence Blvd
Harrisville, UT 84404**

Minutes of a regular Harrisville City Council Public Hearing held on August 2, 2022 at 6:00PM in the Harrisville City Council Chambers, 363 West Independence Blvd., Harrisville, UT.

Present: Mayor Michelle Tait, Council Member Blair Christensen, Council Member Max Jackson, Council Member Steve Weiss, Council Member Loveland, and Council Member Wilhelmsen.

Excused:

Staff: Jennie Knight, City Administrator, Maria Devereux, City Recorder, Justin Shinsel, Public Works Director, Jill Hunt, Treasurer, Mark Wilson, Police Chief and Dennis Moore, Assistant Police Chief.

Visitors: Karen Maxfield, Harold Smoot, Scott Moon, Gary Jenner, Linda Gaz, Vicky Anderson, David Conch, John Gy, Marvine Farrell, Chris Cope, Diana Wilhelmsen, Shane Strebel, Michael Lesley, Jon Pierotti, Dave VanBeeken, Art Miller, Kyler Lloyd, Toni Flinn, Randy Flinn, Ben Palme, Chris Kilpatrick, Kathryn Husor, Sherry Farrell, Mike Farrell, Joanne F. Christensen, Ryan Ellis, Val Reeder, Jennifer Reeder, Mike Dalpass, Loren Kartchner, Kenny Miller, Jamey Krieve, Nash Dinsdale, Paula Crawford, Mike Frost, Jayna Frost, Jack Davis, Nadeorie Eden, L Mcfee, Paula Berrett, Desiree Birdsall, Marc Birdsall, Annie Nelson, Dennis Nelson, Boyd Fife, Reid Brown, Nell Brown, Susan Christensen, S Blanchard, David Hickson, Blaine Barrow, Mellissa Ferguson, Keith Jacque, Michael Peterson, Barbara Hansen, Tim Ernst, Lloyd Barker, Roger Shuman, Mike Schooler, Karol Schooler, Beverly Foulger, Jeff Summers, Dan Gilboy, Howard Dabb, Nancy Clark, Chris Clark, Clint Allred, Beverly Brook, Larry Brook, Kevin Karras, Larry Lilly, Amy Walker, Shanna Edwards, Lynn Edwards, Deniane Kartchner, Joseph Favero, Don W Baird, Susan M. Baird, Tyler Johnson, Myron Brandley, Scott Sheridan, Kyle Knighton, Mike Frost, Jordan Reid, Shauna Reid, Jason Hadley, Crystel Woolsey, Lily Woolsey, Carey Smith, Debbie Smith, Michael Knight, Lori Bagshaw, Dale Bagshaw, Kathleen Hohosh, Kimberly Ball, John Macedone, Gary Saunders, Sherri Vasas, C.W. Thomas, Lee Jacobson, Robert Nunn, Jan Hayball, Brian Dabb, Reta Smith, Marilyn Jones, Cindy Quercia, Breton Prall, Elaine Andrushko, Chris Kilpatrick, June Reese, Alex Craft, Russel Anders.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tait called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and welcomed all visitors.

Mayor Tait advised no action will be taken at this meeting, she explained the rules of procedure for the public hearing and asked for respectful treatment of all involved.

2. OPENING

The Pledge of Allegiance and prayer was provided by Council Member Weiss.

3. BUSINESS ITEM

PUBLIC HEARING to receive input from the public for and/or against the proposed increase to the certified tax rate levy for Harrisville City.

Jennie Knight, City Administrator, gave a presentation, an overview of Truth In Taxation that covers some feedback received during the Open House event held on July 12th, 2022. The presentation reviewed Truth In Taxation, provided a definition, clarified that though property values may rise, the certified tax rate falls leaving an imbalance and less revenue with increased property values. The last Truth In Taxation was held in 2013 and with the proposed certified tax rate, Harrisville City has a median rate in relation to surrounding cities. Jennie Knight reviewed the programs, services, facilities, and staff needed to continue growing as a city and necessary to support our residents. She reviewed city accountability, and what is being done to balance the current budget. She provided the questions@cityofharrisville.com email address if the public has questions they would like to have answered.

Members of the public have three (3) minutes to comment. Feedback or discussion may not be provided at this meeting, comment period only. Mayor Tait asked for order and respect in the council room.

Council Member Weiss made a motion to open the public hearing, second by Council Member Wilhelmsen.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Council Member Wilhelmsen, Yes
Council Member Weiss, Yes
Council Member Christensen, Yes
Council Member Jackson, Yes
Council Member Loveland, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Member of the public stated name (unintelligible): noted that she is disappointed in her officials making a choice to raise taxes, will not be voting for these Council Members if the decision is to move forward with the tax increase.

Roger Shuman noted he sent a letter to address concerns, he reviewed the Harrisville City website and finds it confusing. He noted that his tax burden will be over 700 dollars that he will have to pay Harrisville City. The services he receives does not warrant an increase such as this. He explained the city needs a plan to bring businesses in, not just manufacturing businesses.

Joanne Christensen speaking on behalf of her husband, read letter written by her husband Curtis Christensen; he has been a resident for over 38 years and has been on the planning commissioner and county engineer. Curtis states the increase in the tax rate is concerning and unfair to residents within the community. The magnitude of the increase impacts many.

Mr. Mcfee stated he has lived in Harrisville City for 31 years. Inflation is affecting residents as much as the city. He reviewed the budget and the salary and benefit increases are high. He asks the council to modify the budget as each household has to do as well.

Nadeoie Eden noted she is speaking on behalf of Grant and Heather (her children). She has listened to the others. She wonders if this has already passed. She explained her children's food bill has increased and are experiencing effects of inflation. They are unable to afford an

increase. They appreciate the services the city provides including police and fire. She asked the Council to tighten their budget.

Dave Vanbeeken noted the values on homes are at an all time high, and the council is choosing to increase property tax now. He understands the city can choose to save instead of spend.

Diana Wilhelmsen stated the council has done a disservice by talking about the 166% increase since its really a 112% increase. After review of the budget, specifically Parks and Recreation, Cornhole is listed as an \$800.00 line item. She asked the council to streamline and tighten the budgets.

Wally (inaudible), property owner in Harrisville City. He noted he has prepared approx. 20 budgets throughout his life. He explained the general fund shouldn't mix with enterprise funds. He understands the city has gone through hard times but the large proposed tax increase is a burden on residents.

Chris Kilpatrick stated the budget needs to be tightened and the 166% increase is not acceptable.

Larry Lilly explained he is directing comments to the Council instead of staff. He noted they have been elected to respect the will of the people. The tax increase of 166% isn't warranted and raising taxes aren't needed, and asks to keep taxes low.

Chris Cope stated the tax burden is becoming unbearable and a tax increase will drive people to leave Harrisville City. Her property tax rate is increasing \$18% without the property tax increase from Harrisville City.

Jason Hadley has questions for the Council's consideration. At what point in the last 10 years did they know an increase was needed? An emergency on the part of the Council for dereliction of duty does not constitute an emergency on the part of the residents.

Kathleen Hohosh noted inflation effects the city and residents and asks the council to tighten their budgets and spending. The Council is elected to serve at the will of the people.

Ms. Thomas has lived in Harrisville City for 12 years now. She noted that she is a senior citizen on a fixed income, she asked the Council to trim the budget.

Reid Brown explained the presentation was confusing. The area that he lives in uses only few services such as police, streets, and has lived there for 14 years on a fixed income. He has served on a City Council in another state, he commiserated with the Council but asked if they will consider their decision carefully before passing the tax increase.

Howard Dabb noted he owns commercial property along Hwy 89. He stated the Council has been remiss in letting the needs grow to this degree. He explained he will have to raise fees and raise rents to tenants to cover the substantial cost of this tax increase.

Val Reeder stated he moved to Harrisville approximately five years ago and feels the 166% proposed increase is astronomical. He asked the Council to consider the increase carefully.

Shane Strebel explained his children and family live in Harrisville City as well. They love Harrisville City but asked the City to cut back. The increase is too substantial.

Kevin Karras echoes the voices of others in attendance and stated he found the information about Truth In Taxation sparse when presented at the Open House event. He urged the Council to consider the decision of the proposed tax increase carefully.

Jordan Reid encouraged the Council to make Harrisville City 'business strong', and to spend money on parks and recreation for kids, but is asking for projections, a plan going forward (10 Yr.) and how this can be done better going forward.

Brian Dabb noted that he would like the Council to make decisions with the community in mind, going forward.

Scott Moon asked why is it viewed negatively to have to hold meetings at a school if the council room is too small or building not efficient, this may support an increased partnership. He asked if a new building has to be built, can the council wait a few years and save money.

Nash Dinsdale noted he has lived in Harrisville City for a few years and looked for homes throughout the state. He didn't consider the tax rate when he purchased a home, he noticed the quiet community, and spaces between homes. He has immediate neighbors on a fixed income.

Jennifer Reeder stated she loved her neighbors and Harrisville City. She explained she is speaking on behalf of the elderly who were unable to be at the meeting. She asked the Council to consider those on a fixed income and potentially unable to pay their taxes, who will assist them.

Lloyd Barker explained he owns a business in Harrisville. He encouraged the Council to find other cost saving methods by purchasing vehicles that use natural gas instead of fuel. He appreciates a response from the council but hopes they will consider other cost saving measures.

Russell Anders stated they moved to Harrisville approximately seven years ago, though it is becoming increasingly busy. He asked the Council not to 'rob Peter to pay Paul'.

Dave Hickson explained he is opposed to a drastic tax hike. He has lived in Harrisville City for the past 20 years.

Boyd Fife noted he has seen much growth and would like businesses to come to Harrisville City. He noted there are many amenities such as parks and programs that are needed but doesn't feel a high tax rate is needed right away. A slow increase is preferred instead of all at once.

Davis Anderson explained his daughter was able to purchase a home in Harrisville City. He explained he is on a fixed income and may have to get a job if tax increase goes through. He does not feel a new building is needed and is against the tax proposal.

Tami Brandley thanked the City Council and the Police Department for everything they do and expressed her desire to work together in community.

Melissa Ferguson stated she lives on Hwy 89 and owns a business there as well. The impact of the fees has affected her twice. She explained the city wants to build new facilities but asked what they are doing for the residents. She noted the City has done away with the splash pad, Harrisville Days, the parade, and all that citizens love. She stated concern for the increase in property taxes for Walmart that will be passed along to the residents.

Lex Patterson (zoom) noted he is a 39-year resident and was previously City Council so understands their predicament. He expressed appreciation for the presentation that helped him understand more. He thanked the council for their careful consideration of this matter.

Deniane Kartchner explained she has many questions. She was invited to come in and speak with the Mayor and City Manager ahead of time. She doesn't understand how to learn more, how to find out more about the budget, what are other sources of revenue, she would like more clarity on impact fees, and much more. She would appreciate more information available for the average person.

Scott (inaudible) stated the increase is very large, and appreciates law enforcement and the Fire Department.

Clint Allred explained he is interested in volunteerism, volunteer opportunities to help the city and community save money on projects that need to be completed.

Mayor Tait addressed the community and expressed appreciation for their attendance and participation in this process. She invited the public to attend future council meetings to learn more about items the city deliberates about.

Motion: Council Member Loveland made a motion to close the public hearing, second by Council Member Weiss.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Council Member Wilhelmsen, Yes
Council Member Weiss, Yes
Council Member Christensen, Yes
Council Member Jackson, Yes
Council Member Loveland, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tait adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

MICHELLE TAIT
Mayor

ATTEST:

MARIA DEVEREUX
City Recorder
Approved this 16th day of August, 2022