

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
LORA A. VITEK, MAYOR
MONDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2023 – 7:05 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2 E. MAIN STREET**

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Vitek at 7:05 pm.

2. Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Gehm to enter into to enter Public Hearing – 2023 Property Tax Levy – City Operating Levy at 7:05.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner, Ald. Weber; Nays: None.

Motion Carried

Discussion:

- Ald. Weber explained that last year there was an increase of 3%. And he would like Staff to research a better solution to the budget that takes advantage of new sources of revenue. He will be voting no.
- Ald. Wirball explained his desire for a budget meeting before raising the tax levy. He asked about tapping into the reserves. He mentioned that continuing to raise taxes is not an option and would like the City to look into other ways to address the budget. He will be voting no.
- Ald. Lencioni stated that the proposed budget is conservative increase and will be supporting the vote. However, he would like a bi-monthly meeting to discuss the budget so that alternatives can be discussed.
- Ald. Bongard expressed concern about being creative with the budget. He explained that the Council needs to direct Staff as to what services could be pulled back. I would also like more discussion. He will be supporting.
- Ald. Wirball said that discussions happen in budget meetings and would like those to happen.
- Ald. Foulkes expressed concern about not passing the budget this evening and how much will be lost. He stated that this is a small step. He will be supporting.
- Ald. Silkaitis does not want to ask the public to pay for unfunded items. He will not support.
- Ald. Muenz explained that many of the Staff are residents and taxpayers and this is taken into account when putting together the budget. She also mentioned that our residents expect a level of service and cutting things is concerning. She will be voting yes.
- Ald. Bessner explained that we can't come up with band-aid solutions that will lead to bigger problems in the future. He will be supporting.
- Mayor Vitek thanked all the directors for their work on the budget as well as all the alderman for their research and preparation for this discussion.

3. **Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Wirball to exit Public Hearing at 7:30.**
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner, Ald. Weber; Nays: None.
Motion Carried

Nancy Garrison, City Clerk

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF ORIGINAL

Nancy Garrison, City Clerk

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be reached in person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377 4446 or 800 526 0844 (TDD), or via e-mail at jmcmahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be reached in person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377 4446 or 800 526 0844 (TDD), or via e-mail at jmcmahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (Open Meetings Act).