



CITY OF IOWA COLONY

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STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
CITY OF IOWA COLONY

BE IT REMEMBERED ON THIS, the 12th day of September, 2022, the City Council of the City of Iowa Colony, Texas, held a Public Meeting at 6:00 P.M. at Iowa Colony City Hall, there being present and in attendance the following members to wit:

Mayor Michael Byrum-Bratsen
Councilman McLean Barnett
Councilwoman Arnetta Murray
Councilwoman Marquette Greene-Young
Councilman Wil Kennedy
Councilman Chad Wilsey

And none being absent, constituting a quorum at which time the following business was transacted.

MEETING – 6:00 P.M.

1. Mayor Byrum-Bratsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were recited.
3. Citizens Comments and Presentations. There were no comments from the public.

"An opportunity for the public to address City Council on agenda items or concerns not on the agenda. To comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act, this period is not for question and answer. Those wishing to speak must identify themselves and observe a three-minute time limit."

4. PUBLIC HEARING

- Hold a public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023. **THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY \$609,056 OR 23.69%, AND OF THAT AMOUNT \$461,660 IS TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR.**

Mayor Byrum- Bratsen opened the public hearing at 6:01 P.M.

- Brenda Ledbetter - 4113 Cedar Rapids Parkway spoke against raising city taxes. She stated that since the appraisals are higher the city is receiving more tax dollars. There is money coming in from the crime control budget and the fire department is receiving money on the water bill. She

asked why are we needing to have such a tax increase? She asked can we maybe budget for the long term and not spend all the money right at this time? She stated that city has new appraised values which brings more money in as well as new houses being built and that is extra revenue. She asked when do we stop this and decide to put some in savings?

- Carolyn Bowen- 9102 Iowa Colony Blvd. She read aloud property values of her clients, not necessarily those who live in Iowa Colony but those who are in Brazoria County. For 50 years she has gone to Angleton to protest. This has been the hardest year she has had to deal with. She stated they are not being flexible or budging. The only time they have had to raise their rate was in 2008 when the values went down. They keep in balance with the values and the rate. She does not see a need to raise taxes or keep them the same. She thinks they need to go down. She asked the Council to please take the people into consideration.
- Brenda Dillon- 4402 Bullard Parkway is in favor of the budget and the tax increase. She likes that she can depend on our Police Officers and staff. She supports our Police Chief and his officers. She believes the staff needs to be compensated. The price of everything is going up. She stated that if we want top service, we have to pay for it.
- Rodney Estrada- 3431 Lake Court- Mr. Estrada did not wish to verbally address the council, but did want his comments noted. He is opposed to the tax increase as we have many homes being built which creates more revenue. Also, with the addition of more businesses coming into the area this equals to more revenue to the city. In his opinion there is no need to raise taxes and put the burden on the landowners.

Mayor Byrum-Bratsen closed the public hearing at 6:12 P.M.

The Council discussed their thoughts and concerns.

- Councilman Wilsey agrees with all the comments from the public. He agrees with Ms. Bowen that this year is tough. He supports the new police station and building the department. He would like to see us shave some money off the budget.
- Councilwoman Greene-Young also agrees with everyone. She stated that Council also lives in Iowa Colony and they also pay the taxes. She does not take the decision lightly. She agrees that we do need to pay for services and we do need to have good police officers and staff. Even though we have that now, she mentioned that we could lose them if we are not keeping up and compensating them. This is not just salary. This includes insurance, trainings, and other things. We are trying to grow Iowa Colony and in doing that we have to think ahead and not just for today.
- Mayor Byrum-Bratsen stated that he chose to live and raise a family in the city as a city, can provide services that the county and state can't and they can do it cheaper and more efficiently. He stated that there is no comparison of what we had then to what we have now and he is perfectly happy to pay for the services we have now. We have to think of the city as a whole and we have to focus on the future and not just the now or we get to the future and then we are stuck. We have outgrown this building and we had to take out debt to build a new building. Tax increases may not be great but are necessary at times.
- Councilman Barnett stated that he had a lot of questions about the proposed budget. He asked about certain line items in the budget including the roads, bridges, and drainage. He asked why the parks and recreation line has been doubled. He was under the impression that the donations that were received for Fourth of July paid for that event. He asked what is community development? He asked about the line item listed as land purchase and improvement for the police station. He stated that he supports our police and staff to be paid well but doesn't want the tax increase to only be for this other than paying additional debt because we are going to increase the tax rate and pay our staff well and that's it. He stated that is all that been highlighted to him.
- Councilwoman Murray stated that even though there may be a tax increase that we need to provide the correct information to the residents. She stated it is time for our police officers to make more money and be comparable to other cities in Brazoria County. There is a lot of crime going on. We want to make sure we are doing what is right for the citizens. We are doing the best

that we can and we want to provide the truth and correct information to the residents. It is all how you portray it.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

ATTEST:

Kayleen Rosser
Kayleen Rosser, City Secretary

Michael Byrum-Bratsen
Michael Byrum-Bratsen, Mayor

