

A Public Hearing was held August 31, 2020 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Brad Bailey, Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Badon, Councilmember Chris Borne, Councilmember Kyle Hollier, and Councilmember Karen Theis in attendance.

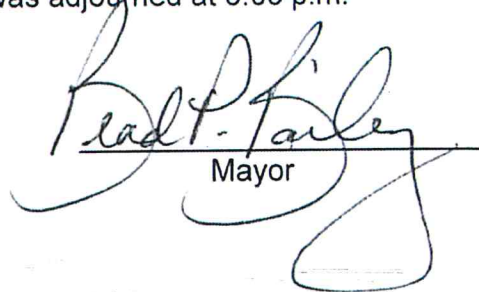
Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He stated that this was a Public Hearing on a tax increase and that a tax rate of \$0.749185 per \$100 valuation had been proposed by the governing body of the City of Groves.

Director of Finance Lamar Ozley addressed the Council and explained that whenever there is a tax rate increase the City is required to have a public hearing and that the public hearing gives citizens the opportunity to express their opinions for or against the tax rate increase. He also stated that the public hearing is a part of the tax rate overhaul (Senate Bill 2 of the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session).

Mayor Bailey asked for citizen comments regarding the City's proposed tax rate or fiscal year 2020-2021 budget and there were none.

Mayor Bailey asked for Council comments or questions. Councilmember Hollier asked how much the proposed increase was and City Manager D.E. Sosa stated the tax rate was going from \$0.7616 per \$100 valuation to \$0.749185 per \$100 valuation. Mr. Sosa reported a 3.4% increase in Maintenance and Operations revenue due to increased property values. Councilmember Hollier stated that the City had not increased taxes and Mr. Sosa explained that it is a net increase because values and the Maintenance and Operations rate has increased. Councilmember Hollier pointed out that if the City lowers the tax rate, services will have to be cut. Councilmember Theis asked who calculates the values on homes and Mayor Bailey responded that the Jefferson County Appraisal District is responsible for the appraised values.

There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk