

A Public Hearing was held August 30, 2021 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Badon, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Mark McAdams, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance.

Mayor Borne called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. He stated that this was a Public Hearing on a tax increase and that a tax rate of \$0.663422 per \$100 valuation had been proposed by the governing body of the City of Groves. He explained that Finance Director Lamar Ozley would give a report and then citizens would be allowed to speak.

Mr. 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 a work session had been held which covered the budget for each department. The proposed water rate will result in an approximate \$1.00 monthly increase on the average water bill. There are eight new vehicles being requested and included in this budget. Mr. Ozley went on to point out differences in the proposed budget vs the current budget.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments regarding the City's proposed tax rate or fiscal year 2021-2022 budget. Barbara Edington of 3800 Russell stated that she does not support the tax increase because of rising costs of goods/services and unemployment. She suggested that the City stop raising taxes and utilities as it has raised taxes six times in the last eight years. She explained that she supports compensating employees fairly. Suzanne Williamson of 5301 Kent distributed information to the Mayor and Council. She voiced concerns on the legality of the public hearing and listed her reasons for concern.

Mayor Borne asked Mr. Ozley and City Manager D.E. Sosa if any of the items Ms. Williamson pointed out were correct. Mr. Ozley responded "yes" and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting.



Mayor

ATTEST:




City Clerk

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