



## BROOKS TOWN PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

### MINUTES

October 21, 2024

Mayor Langford led the Invocation and the Pledge and then called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor: Daniel Langford

Council Members Present: Ted Britt  
Kay Brumbelow  
Brian Davis  
Scott Israel  
Todd Speer

The proposed Agenda for Monday, October 21, 2024, was emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Council Member Scott Israel made a motion to approve the agenda; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Public Hearing: Notice of Property Tax Increase / 2024 Millage Rate – Opened at 5:30 p.m. / Closed at 5:54 p.m.**

#### **Notice of Property Tax Increase / 2024 Millage Rate**

L. Spohr presented a presentation on the 2024 Tax Digest/Millage Rate. The presentation explained what a millage rate was and how it is calculated. It showed the five-year tax history and the value of one mill for 2024 (\$54,978). L. Spohr presented millage values for both 1.207 mills (\$66,358) and a rollback rate of 1.129 mills (\$62,070). 1.207 mills would provide additional revenue of \$4,748 vs 1.129 mills would provide additional revenue of \$470. The FY2025 approved budgeted amount for property tax is \$61,610. The presentation provided information on how property taxes are calculated and the exemptions that homeowners who occupy their homes can apply for in person at the Tax Commissioner's Office. Comparisons of the 1.129 millage rate vs the 1.207 millage rate were provided on six homes. No action is to be taken this evening as this is the first reading.

Mayor Langford interpreted the information presented as meaning that if the town did the rollback rate, it would receive enough revenue to meet the FY2025 budget amount. L. Spohr replied that that was correct but reminded the mayor and council that the town has already spent \$8,000 of its fund balance on replacing Hardy Hall's roof.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any questions from the council or the public.

David Harris – 968 Highway 85 Connector asked what part of the budget is exceeding the budget and by how much. What is the point of having a budget if you continue to go over the budget? Why was the millage rate frozen for such a long time and then unfrozen? How much is the town over budget in a department, and how is the town allowed to exceed the budget on expenses and sue residents of the town using town funds without public approval?

L. Spohr replied to Mr. Harris's question regarding legal expenses by stating that legal expenses have already exceeded the budget number by \$1,986 for the FY2025 legal budget, but the town has not exceeded its approved total FY2025 budget amount. Funds can be moved from one department to another as necessary, provided the total budget amount is not exceeded.

Mayor Langford replied to Harris' comment about suing residents by stating that the town has the right to sue anyone who has wronged the town.

M. Ungaro reminded the Mayor and Council that this public hearing only discusses the notice of property tax increase and the 2024 millage rate.

Mayor Langford stated that the budget can be discussed at the regular council meeting this evening at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any other comments from the council or the public regarding the notice of property tax increase / 2024 millage rate.

With hearing none, Mayor Langford closed the public hearing at 5:54 p.m.

**Adjourn:**

Mayor Langford adjourned the public hearing at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lorey Spohr  
Town Clerk