

The Carl Junction City Council met in special session on Friday August 28, 2009 at 6:15 PM at City Hall. Mayor Mike Moss called the meeting to order with the following present: Richard Zaccardelli, Don Marshall, Mark Powers, Steve Daniels, Dee Lynn Davey and Walter Hayes. Aldermen Carl Skaggs and Wayne Smith were absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Lawver and City Clerk Maribeth Matney.

AGENDA

Richard Zaccardelli motioned to approve the agenda. Don Marshall seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX LEVY

Mayor Moss opened the public hearing on the tax levy at 6:16 PM. Tom King, 141 Forest Drive, stated that he tries to keep up with what is happening and was pleased to hear that Missouri seemed to be fairing OK in this recession. It bothered him that we were intending to increase our tax levy and he does not think that is the thing to do. People have to cut back to stay in their budget but the government raises taxes to keep ahead. He thinks it is necessary to find ways to cut costs instead of raising taxes. He does not think we are part of the tax and spend crowd like DC. He is opposed to our raising the taxes due to the economic times.

Bob Cook, 212 E Allen, said he was in agreement with Mr. King. He has rental properties in town and he pays the taxes on them. He has kept his rent the same over the last 5-6years because his tenants are retirees and are on fixed income. He has been absorbing the tax increases. He asked if we had to raise the taxes where was the money we were going to use to subsidize the golf course and we could use that money. It just doesn't make sense.

Tom King, 141 Forest Drive, readdressed the council and stated he was a golfer and he voted against the bond issue because he doesn't think we should go that way. He does not feel it is in the city's best interest and that Joplin can't support their course. He said that if the people around it want to vote it in so be it and they can raise their taxes but the rest of the people say no.

June Chenot, 128 Forest Drive, then went over a spreadsheet with our debt service and budget. We will raise \$208,000 with the proposed levy which will be \$33,000 more then last year. After reviewing debt service numbers she stated that we have the ability to shift some of our surplus to the GO Bond fund and does not understand why we don't do that. If our current surplus is \$645,000 why can't we shift \$35,000 from General Fund to the GO Bond Fund instead of raising taxes.

Mary Schillaci, 706 Springhill, also stated that we should transfer from our surplus. She also requested a copy of the budget. She talked about our park budget and the Capital Improvement budget. She asked why the repairs to our parks were so high this year when last year it wasn't. It was explained that we were going to redo our tennis courts since the school had said they would need to use them, but now they have other courts they are going to use. Steve said that we are still short in revenues in the debt service but we were going to pay the difference out of our surplus. We did not want to make a big jump in taxes and chose to do it in small steps.

Bob Cook said we need to live within our means. He said we give too much away. He does not think our employee's make good use of their time and are hard on their equipment. Mark Powers explained that we have unfunded mandates from the state that we have to meet which this year alone will cost \$50,000. Bob Cook said to cut back and save for the future. Dee Lynn said that they vote on the levy every year and the last 2 years it went down five cents and now it is going back up. Dee Lynn also pointed out that we did not have the usual growth this last year we normally have. Bob said that we need to control our waste. He then talked about the money spent on the walking trail.

Mayor Moss said we do the best we can and try not to waste our money. We try to do what is best for the City. Bob Cook said we do a good job. Mayor Moss said when he moved here the tax levy was \$1.70. Our growth is flat right now. Bob Cook then asked why we were subsidizing APD sewer. It was responded that they pay for that.

It was stated that the Community Center was not supposed to raise our taxes. It was responded that the table had a growth factor built into it and we didn't meet that growth.

Ron Brewer, 403 Sunnybrook, read the comments from the Globe. He handed out the school's budget and a letter he received from the school. He then asked Walter what the market will be like in 3 years. Walter replied that the housing market is better. Mr. Brewer then handed out the Carl Junction paper also. He said that the school is part of Carl Junction. He pays his fair share of taxes and he has a problem with Briarbrook taxes not being paid. He said that everyone here is against the tax levy increase and that if we vote it in it will speak volumes. Mayor Moss said that we have no control on the school taxes and we can't collect for them. Mayor Moss stated we take our delinquent taxes to our municipal court. Mr. Brewer said he has a problem with it not being enforced. Mayor Moss said that some things are beyond his control and he can only do what is set by ordinance.

Tom King, 141 Forest Drive, stated he has no issue with the employee's of the city and is very happy with our services. He would just appreciate us not raising taxes this year.

Linda Briggs, 136 Black Oak Drive, asked that we not raise our taxes this year. Everyone has a tight budget this year and we need to tighten our budget.

Mayor Moss closed the public hearing at 7:00 PM.

ORDINANCES

Steve Lawver reported that he had put some numbers out for the council and didn't have anything to add unless they had questions. Dee Lynn Davey motioned to put "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TAX LEVY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 ESTABLISHING SAID LEVY \$0.7377 PER HUNDRED ASSESSED VALUATION ESTABLISHING THE ALLOCATIONS OF SAID FUNDS TO GENERAL FUND AND GENERAL OBLIGATIONS SINKING FUND" on first reading by title only. Mark Powers seconded. All in favor. No opposed. Walter Hayes suggested that we hold the levy to where it was last year. Walter said that the economy is starting to rebound. Mark said that if it does go up we will reduce it next year. Walter said we have enough to handle

what is there. Dee Lynn said that every year we have a growth factor. Walter replied that we are supposed to have 15% in reserves and we are higher than that. The City Clerk asked if it would rebound enough to make up for this year's deficit. If it doesn't it could be an even higher increase next year. Our auditor said that if we keep pulling out of reserves at the rate we are now with the GO Bond we will not have any surplus in 3-4 years. Walter said that if Briarbrook stays stable we will do OK but if not we will need to adjust it more. Richard stated that housing prices are low right now. Dee Lynn Davey motioned to put it on second reading by title only with a roll call vote. Mark Powers seconded. Zaccardelli-y, Marshall-n, Skaggs-absent, Powers-y, Daniels-n, Davey-y, Hayes-n, W Smith-absent. Ordinance failed. There was then considerable discussion amongst the council regarding the general fund and General Obligation Fund levies. Walter suggested we roll back the General Fund levy to what it was last year. That would make the levy \$.7317 overall. Richard Zaccardelli motioned to put "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TAX LEVY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 ESTABLISHING SAID LEVY \$0.7317 PER HUNDRED ASSESSED VALUATION ESTABLISHING THE ALLOCATIONS OF SAID FUNDS TO GENERAL FUND AND GENERAL OBLIGATIONS SINKING FUND" on first reading. Steve Daniels seconded. All in favor. No opposed. Richard Zaccardelli motioned to put it on second reading by title only with a roll call vote. Dee Lynn Davey seconded. Zaccardelli-y, Marshall-y, Skaggs-absent, Powers-y, Daniels-y, Davey-y, Hayes-y, W Smith-absent. Motion on Ordinance #09-39 was approved by roll call vote, signed by the Mayor, attested by the City Clerk and made a part of the permanent records of the City of Carl Junction.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Powers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steve Daniels seconded. All in favor. No opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR