



ROBINS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2ND, 2024 MEETING

Mayor Hinz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Robins City Hall on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, roll call was taken with Council Members Mike Foley, Cary Smith, Leigh Cook, Dave Franzman and JD Smith in attendance along with Planning and Zoning Administrator Dean Helander, Building Official/Superintendent of Public Works Mike Kortenkamp, Police Chief Andy Humphrey, Police Officers Deric Oshel and Gabe Humphrey, Deputy Clerk Lisa Goodin, and City Clerk/Treasurer Lori Pickart. Franzman moved to approve the agenda, Cook seconded and all voted aye.

Mayor Hinz opened the Public Hearing to hear comments and concerns relating to the proposed property tax levy at 7:02 p.m. Mayor Hinz explained the charts provided, showing the five year City Levy History compared to the cities of Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha, and Robins, noting Robins' General Fund tax levy for the past five years has been approximately 50% lower than those of the aforementioned cities. Mayor Hinz explained roll backs, noting the resident pays a percentage of their property taxes, adding the roll back is determined by state government officials. He adding higher rollbacks are better for city financing and lower rollbacks are better for the property owners. Mayor Hinz noted there are three main factors affecting property taxes;

1. Assessed Value. The assessor comes out and inspects your home. He then compares your house to houses in the area and provides a value based on the data he collected compared to other homes in the area. Mayor Hinz noted the city the assessor establishes the value based on the data he/she collects.
2. Rollback. Mayor Hinz noted state officials determine this number based on information given to them.
3. Estimated costs and receipts. Mayor Hinz noted each organization determines what the tax asking will be to make ends meet, adding this takes a lot of time along with very tough decisions made by the elected officials.

Mayor Hinz noted Robins' City Officials have a very long history of being conservative even though faces change; philosophies change; growing pains occur, but as a rule the Robins City levy remains to be the lowest in the Metro Area. He added city funds are spent on safety of the residents and street conditions. He then noted the increased tax levy for the upcoming FY'24/'25 budget year are mainly due to the costs to upgrade the Indian Creek Interceptor which all of the Metro Area cities use. He noted in 2007, the officials of the plant located near Bertram in the Highway 13 area came to the metro cities advising of the need to upgrade the system as the current sewer mains were running full. Each jurisdiction entered into a 28E Agreement binding the cities to participate in paying to upgrade the size of the sewer mains. He noted there are 20 segments with several smaller segments and the cities financially contribute to every segment when it is constructed. He noted there are meters which meter the amount of effluent which passes through them.

Comments of concern were received from residents Steve Oglesby; Richard Damish; Bill Hess; Mr. and Mrs. Buss; Tyler Turner; Randy Holub, Joe Suchan, Doug Rothenburger. Council Member Mike Foley advised residents to drive by Menards on Highway 100 where they are currently working on the project. He noted the new mains are at least 60" in diameter. The Public Hearing closed at 7:57 p.m. The Council adjourned at 7:58.p.m.

Chuck Hinz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Pickart, City Clerk/Treasurer