

A Special meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chambers with Councilor Sullivan presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm with ten members present. Councillor Studenski absent.

In City Council, November 27, 2017

489 Call of the meeting

Accepted and placed on file.

490 Officer's return of notice

Accepted and placed on file.

488 Ordered: that the City Council hereby determines the percentages of the local tax levy in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Ch. 40, Section 56, to be borne by each class of real property, as defined in Section 2A of Chapter 59, and personal property.

The hearing was opened. The Council President stated anyone speaking should sign in and give their addresses.

Mr. O'Donnell of the Assessor's Office gave the opening statement. He explained what the hearing is for. To set the tax rate for Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property for Fiscal Year 2018. He stated that rising assessments do not equal rising taxes. Rising budgets cause rising taxes. He stated 1st year the tax rate was 1.70%.

Steve Kelly of 45 Stonehill St., Brockton appeared in favor. He would like to see the rate kept the same or lowered for residents. He supported the Pilot Initiative. He believes that it is time for nonprofits to pay their share.

Jeanne Holmes of 65 Belcher Ave., Brockton appeared in favor. She asked that the Council vote to set the tax rate as low as possible for the residents. Though the rate of 1.70% may sound low, when you are talking about, for example, \$200,000, it is a lot to pay for taxes. Also, assessments are going up on homes, so taxes would be on the new assessment and would be jacked up.

The CFO spoke and said by law, the highest we can go is 1.75%. He stated that his recommendation is 1.7 to 1.71%. The city is growing and property value is going up. The city needs more commercial businesses. If the city shifts the tax rate for commercial too much, it will not be competitive.

Jenny Mather appeared in favor. She stated that she has a business in Brockton and thinks businesses should pay their share of taxes. She thinks that there should be some kind of incentive for new businesses. We should attract new businesses.

Councillor Monahan stepped in at 7:22pm.

Hearing held.

Councillor Farwell stated that NHC, YMCA, Brockton Hospital are tax exempt. The city has over 1.1 billion dollars in tax exempt properties. Even if they paid a small amount in taxes, it would make a huge difference. He thinks a tax increase would hurt residents. They get 2 tax bills, in January and March and they have to pay it in full. Businesses can deduct payments for oil, office, etc. Residents cannot do that. If they have no money, they cannot purchase goods and services.

Councillor Farwell motioned to set the rate at 1.73.

Councillor Cruise stated that he would not vote for that rate. He believes that we need to expand commercial tax base. Long term it would make thing better. He used Boston as an example. They have a lot in commercial, so residential is lowered substantially.

Councillor Eaniri seconded the motion.

The motion carried by a hand vote with ten members present with six voting in the affirmative. Councillors Asack, Cruise, Lally and Monahan voting in the negative. Councillor Studenski absent.

A two minute recess was called.

Back in session.

Residential	68.27
Commercial	21.97
Industrial	3.84
Personal Property	5.92

The factor for such classification shall be 1.73

Councillor Farwell motioned for reconsideration with the wish that it does not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a hand vote.

Adjourned 7:37pm