

In City Council, November 22, 2021

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held on Monday November 22, 2021, in the Council Chambers, 2nd. Floor, City Hall. President Farwell presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM with eight members present. Councilors Eaniri and Monahan Absent.

687. Call of the meeting

Accepted and placed on file

688. Officer's return of notice

Accepted and placed on file

Councilor Eaniri Stepped In.

HEARING:

689. Ordered: That the City Council hereby determines the percentages of the local tax levy for FY2022 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.

Written and oral arguments will be taken at this time.

All other related matters

President Farwell declared the hearing open.

Councilor Monahan Stepped In.

The following people spoke briefly on the matter:

Robert Ford of 61 Bonnet St

Marc Osborne of 14 Harwich Road

Michelle Henson of 16 Ardsley Street

Jeanne L. Holmes-Kireilis of 65 Belcher Ave

President Farwell stated that he keeps hearing about residential exemption and wasn't aware of this being before them and if CFO Troy Clarkson or Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell could clarify.

CFO Troy Clarkson stated there is a residential exemption that about 14 communities in the commonwealth have and this is something they do not have before them tonight.

Chairman of Assessors stated this is an option that every community has to consider. Tonight's hearing is on shifting the rate, small commercial exemption, and residential

exemption. They have looked into residential exemption but they would have to do some analysis and see if its beneficial.

The following people spoke briefly on the matter:

Jamal Brathwaite of 18 Parkview Lane

Jed Hresko of 147 Center Street

President Farwell asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak and declared the hearing closed.

Councilor Thompson spoke on how some of the residents are looking for help for the seniors and what's available for them and if they could explain the tax laws and senior exemptions.

Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell stated there are two senior exemptions a 17D based on someone's assets only then a 41C which is based on assets and income. All information is available online. Anyone interested is free to call his office and speak to Jackie or Ellie and they would be more then helpful.

Councilor Thompson asked if there were any tax exemptions for the disabled residents as well.

Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell stated that they would fall under the 41C and that Blind get a \$500 exemption but that's all they have they would fall under 41C and have to meet the asset and income guidelines.

Councilor Thompson state that residential exemptions in other communities have higher percentage of rental properties than owner occupied which shifts the burden.

Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell stated which is why they don't have a residential exemption because Brockton doesn't have many rental properties most 2-3 family homes are owner occupied and Brockton doesn't have many apartments which the burden would stay the same.

Councilor Cardoso stated that she spoke with Chairman of Assessors 2 years ago about putting the information in other languages.

Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell stated that the application has been updated to four (4) languages.

Councilor Mendes asked when is the deadline for next year for when people can file their tax abatement.

Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell stated February 1st.

Councilor Monahan motioned to accept Tax Shift 1.75 and was properly seconded. Adopted by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; ten members present and all voting in the affirmative.

President Farwell asked can the ARPA fund be used to mitigate against the economic stress that is inflected upon tax payers.

CFO Troy Clarkson stated yes there is a provision.

President Farwell asked if they could take from the ARPA fund and credit each homeowner \$200 to their water and sewer bill which would mitigate against the tax increase. He asked CFO Troy Clarkson how much would this cost and is this legal.

CFO Troy Clarkson said he would get back to him with some information.

Councilor Rodrigues stated he would prefer the credit to go to the tax payers that live in the city because some residents are hooked up to Brockton sewer and water that are not residents.

President Farwell agreed it should be owner occupied and residential.

Councilor Asack asked Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell that they got the break down of 1.75 for the residents what does this mean for commercial.

Chairman of Assessors stated for the median bill Commercial will go down \$3.34 and Industrial will go down \$45.74.

Attorney Resnick stated this is what the order will read

ORDER: 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.

Residential	73.7364
Commercial	17.4426
Industrial	3.3570
Personal Property	5.4640

The factor for such classification shall be: **1.75**

Councilor Rodrigues motioned to approve Tax Class Order and was properly seconded. Adopted by a roll call vote taken by "yeas and "nays"; ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Thompson motion to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a hand vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40PM