

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

August 19, 2016

MONTGOMERY CITY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kirk Jones declared a quorum was present, and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Kirk Jones Mayor
 John Champagne Place #2
 Rebecca Huss Place #4
 Dave McCorquodale Place #5

Absent: Jon Bickford Place #1
 T.J. Wilkerson Place #3

Also Present:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Convene into Public Hearing #2:

Mayor Jones convened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.

1. Open forum that allows each citizen present to address the governing body to express their concerns on the proposed tax increase. (Limit of 3 minutes)

Mayor Jones stated that this Public Hearing is first of two Public Hearings, required by statute. Mayor Jones said that the main reason that they have the Public Hearing is because the City will be collecting more total property taxes than they did last year.

Mayor Jones said that he wanted to clarify one thing before the public speaks, the proposed tax rate is not going up and it will be the same tax rate that the City has had for the last six years. Mayor Jones said that because of growth in the City, more homes and commercial buildings, the City will be collecting more property taxes. John Champagne said that the City tax rate will remain the same. Mayor Jones said that is correct, but they are still required to conduct this Public Hearing.

John Champagne said that the way they are required to word the item, it makes it seem like the taxes are being raised.

Rebecca Huss said that the Appraisal District sets the property valuation of your home, so depending on what exemptions you get, that could have a big difference in what you actually pay per year, but that is not something that the City has control over, unfortunately.

Mr. Ed Miller said that according to a newspaper article he had read, it talked about a tax rate of .34, and then talked about this rate of .4155.

Rebecca Huss said that .4155 has been the City's tax rate for the last six years. Rebecca Huss said something that they have not talked about is what the City has been doing with the extra funds. There have been years and years of underspending on maintenance on the City's infrastructure, particularly water and sewer, which is something that they are committed to going forward. Rebecca Huss said that it is good luck that Kroger is coming into the City. Sales tax and property tax will be increasing, so now is the time that they can shore up some of the gaps that they have got in their infrastructure.

Mr. Ed Welch asked whether the City was responsible for bridges in the City. Rebecca Huss said that it depended on where the bridge was located. Rebecca Huss said that the Buffalo Springs Bridge is the City's bridge. John Champagne said that the City is in the process of working on that bridge. Rebecca Huss said that they have been told that when all is said and done, that could be the most expensive bridge in Montgomery County because of the damage that was caused by the storm. Rebecca Huss advised that the City was working with FEMA, so it will not be a quick fix. Hopefully, when they spend the money it will be solid and withstand the next 50 years.

Mr. Welch asked if there was going to be some major improvements done in the City, such as, paving of streets and sidewalks. Mayor Jones said that they do budget road repairs and maintenance. Rebecca Huss said that, generally, sidewalks have been part of their Code of Ordinances, and as the City grows you will see more of those type of things, but they are not going into the old part of Montgomery and re-curb and pave those areas.

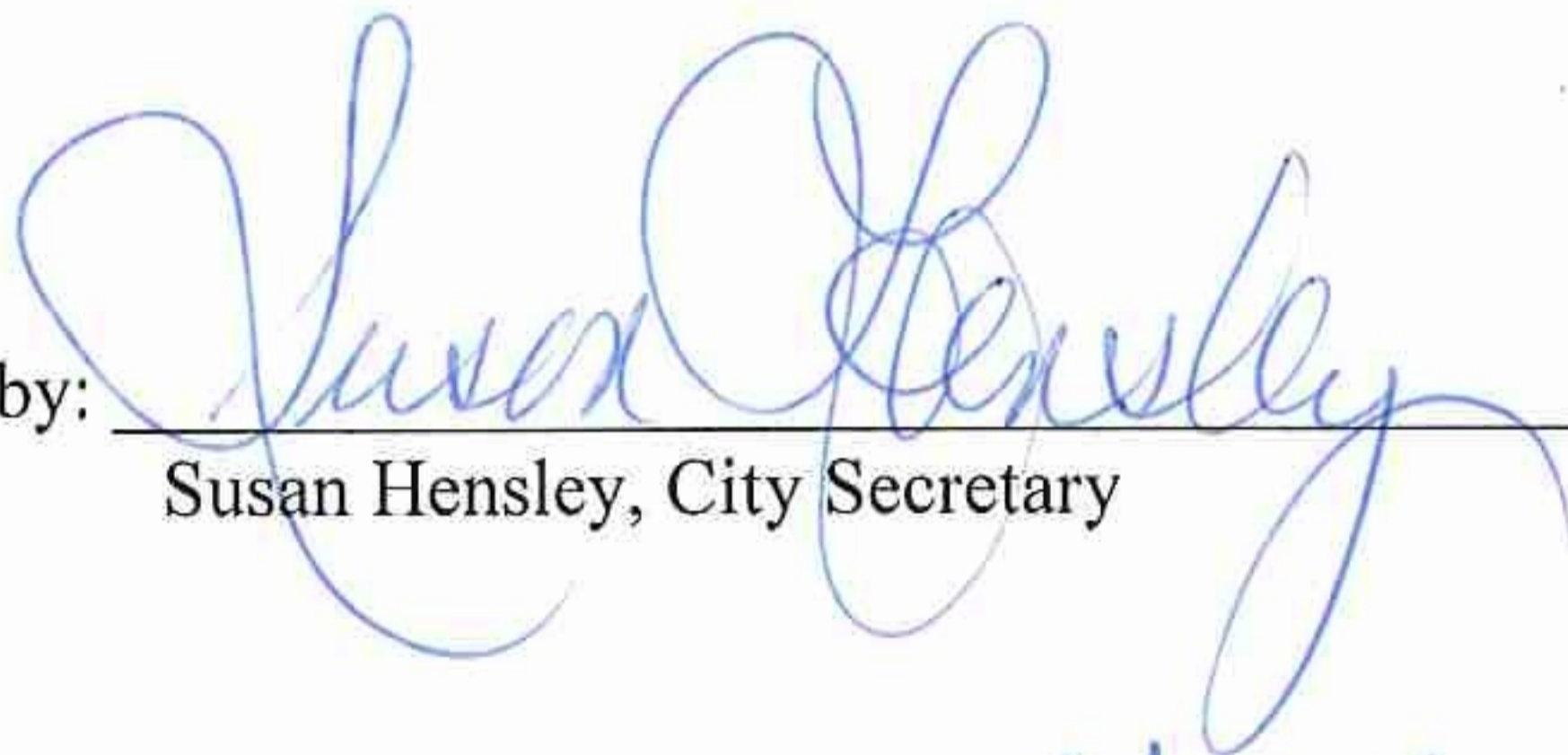
Mayor Jones closed the Public Hearing at 6:07 p.m.

2. Announcement of the date, time and place that City Council will conduct the 2nd Public Hearing.

Mayor Jones announced that the second of the two public hearings, as required by law, will be held on August 23, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, which is the same night as the next Regular City Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

John Champagne moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. Rebecca Huss seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Submitted by: 
Susan Hensley, City Secretary

Date Approved: 9/13/16



Mayor Kirk Jones

