

## SPECIAL MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in special session on Monday March 24, 2025. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Gruetzmacher. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Brandon French, Part-time Officer; Nick Kuker, Public Works Director; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

Motion by Williams, second by Gruetzmacher to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Due to the passing of House File 718 in 2023, every March each owner of taxable property is mailed a letter with proposed tax levy rates and public hearing dates with times. This letter is supposed to help to provide information in the hopes of educating taxpayers about the upcoming budgets being reviewed and passed. Before the public hearing was opened, Mayor Kayser wanted to explain to the audience that the proposed tax rate submitted to the county auditor for the mailing was the max rate the city could levy for of \$10.00. So far the rate planned after reviewing the final numbers for next year's budget, if the council approved later in the night, would be set at \$9.00. At that moment, there was no intention by the council to raise the taxes by \$1.00. Motion by Gruetzmacher, second by Erickson to open the public hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Levy for fiscal year 25-26. Motion carried. Prior to the public hearing, there were no written or oral comments received. Five residents were present wanting clarification about the letter and the forecasted 25.18% increase in residential property taxes. Mayor Kayser again explained that the city's portion of the information on the notice stated the max tax rate possible the city could levy for if the council chose to levy for the full expense amounts for liability, property and self-insurance costs and other employee benefits. The big reason for putting the max rate in the proposed notice is to protect the city as they would not be able to raise it any higher when finalizing and passing the final budget. If something was missed as they are finalizing the budget they would not be able to set the rate any higher than what the letter stated but they could set the final budget at a rate lower than what was published in the letter. The council assured the residents that they were considering leaving the rate the same as last year and they would be looking at that later in the night at the next meeting. Questions regarding the school's numbers and the county's numbers were asked but that information would need to be addressed at those scheduled public hearings. Motion by T. Woods, second by Gruetzmacher to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Motion by Williams, second by R. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 PM. Motion carried.

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Jason Kayser, Mayor

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Brittany Fuller, City Clerk