

§STATE OF TEXAS  
§CALDWELL COUNTY  
§CITY OF LULING

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LULING, MET IN PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSIONS ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY HALL, 509 EAST CROCKETT STREET.**

The following members were present:

Mike Hendricks	Mayor
Melanie Doyle	Council Member
Wayne Tresner	Council Member
James Nickells	Council Member (telephone)
CJ Watts	Council Member

Council Member Jackie Campbell was absent.

Staff Members present:

Mark Mayo	City Manager
Martha Velasquez	City Secretary
James Rougeou	Finance Director
Elizabeth Mundine	Asst. Finance Director
Bill Sala	Police Chief

**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

Mayor Hendricks called the meeting to order and welcomed all the visitors. Council James Nickells attended via telephone conference.

**2. Open Public Hearing.**

*The City Council of the City of Luling will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate of .5133 per \$100 valuation.*

Finance Director, Sonny Rougeou stated that the proposed tax rate is below the voter approval rate. Sonny stated that we don't know what kind of collections we are going to have this year, but our past tax collections history have been roughly about 90%. Sonny stated that if we do collection 90% of the tax rate we will collect more than we have budgeted by about \$57,000.

The tax rate is going down by 1.29% over our rate that we adopted last year, but property tax values have gone up 7.72%.

**3. Close Public Hearing.**

There was no other discussion and public hearing was closed.

Mayor Hendricks stated that if the Council desires we could adopt the tax rate if they wanted to adopt it at this time.

Council Member Wayne Tresner made a motion seconded by Council Member CJ Watts that the property tax be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.5133 which is effectively a 3.53 % increased in the tax rate. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion. (We voted by rollcall per ward).

**4. Discuss/consider proposed 2021 Caldwell Appraisal District Budget.**

City Manager, Mark Mayo stated that Lee Rust is our representative on the Caldwell County Appraisal District Board and he is in attendance.

Mark stated that as the Council knew we had sent a letter to the Caldwell County Appraisal District Board about some concerns we had with the budget, like the 5% Cost of Living Raise and also on some Capital Outlay that they wanted to purchase. Mr. Mayo stated that he understand these cost and has no issue with these items, he stated that this is not the time during this pandemic to be passing 5% Increase of Salaries and a Longevity Pay and purchasing Capital Outlay.

Mark stated that not knowing what we were bringing this year we have put a hold on purchasing of items and we did give a raise but not a 5% across the board. Mark stated that basically they are working off of our dollar. Mark explained the process, he spoke to Mr. Evans, attorney for the CCAD board and he spoke to Peter, City Attorney. Mark stated that they get together and it's a proposed budget and it is brought forth and they voted and it was passed. But all the entities, cities and schools can put together a resolution saying that we do not support it, and if enough entities do that, they have to go back to the drawing board and do another budget. Mark stated that he knows that the school board is entertaining in passing a resolution. He stated that he has not heard back from City of Lockhart.

Mark stated that we have 30 calendar days to send in a resolution disapproving the CCAD budget. Mark stated that 2/3 of the entities have to disapprove the budget before they go back to the drawing board. Mark said that he doesn't like telling another entity how to do their budget, but this is our money. Lee Rust, CCAD Board Member, graciously carried this letter to Caldwell County Appraisal District but he was voted down.

Sonny stated that we have about \$140,000 of unpaid utility accounts. Mark stated that we are going to start doing disconnects, and adding penalties to utility accounts that have not been paid. We are going to allow customers 12 months to catch up on their outstanding debts.

Following discussion, Council Member CJ Watts made a motion seconded by Council Member Wayne Tresner to create a resolution disapproving the Caldwell County Appraisal District Budget. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion. (we voted by ward)

**5. Adjourn.**

There were no other business and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_

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Mike Hendricks, Mayor  
City of Luling

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Martha C. Velasquez  
City Secretary