

**City of Menahga  
Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing  
Monday, December 13, 2021**

**A. Call to Order**

The Menahga City Council held a Public Hearing on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment, regarding the proposed 2022 tax levy.

Mayor Liz Olson called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**B. Roll Call**

Comprising a quorum of the council, the following members were present:

Mayor Elizabeth Olson      Durwin Tomperi      Art Huebner

Dan Warmbold      Robyn Keranen

Also present were:

Temporary City Administrator Betty Thomsen

**C. Verify Sign-up sheet**

A total of 24 signatures were on the sign-up sheet.

**Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

Mayor Olson then turned the Public Hearing over to Temporary City Administrator Betty Thomsen. Thomsen spoke on the services that are provided to the taxpayers, which are funded through Local Government Aid (LGA), Property Taxes, and other revenue sources. Thomsen then gave a breakdown of where the city spends the funds that they receive.

Most of the expenses for the city are Salaries and Benefits at 48.47%, Insurance at 10%, other expenses 25%, Gas/Oil 2.01%, Supplies 2%, Repair and Maintenance 8.50%, Contract services 3.60%, Phone/fax 1.38% and General Government 3.50%. Examples of expenses by department were broken

down for the audience and presented by Thomsen, Police Department \$381,209.99, City Administration \$252,800.65, Street Department \$147,398.83, Fire Department \$106,493.82, Mayor & Council \$17,790.50, and several others.

The proposed budget for 2022 will be \$1,293,522 of that amount \$385,894.29 for General Fund and Bond Payments of \$100,088.52 (for a total of \$485,982.81) will be levied to the property owners through property taxes, the remainder will come from other sources such as LGA, grants, fines, etc.

Mayor Olson asked if the city had received any written comment, it was stated that none had been received. Mayor Olson then opened the public hearing for anyone who wished to speak.

City resident Karol Andreasen – What will the levy do for increasing reserve funds? What about all the funds we have that we don't know where they are from? Karol felt there was 4 or 5 accounts that have \$2 to \$3 Million Dollars in them. Thomsen said she was not aware of these funds in those amounts. She had checked with the Bank and had not seen any accounts with those amounts.

Councilmember Huebner stated he did not feel the city should be investing city monies, they should be using it to provide city services. Mayor Olson explained that the investments are monies from previous profits (enterprise funds) and capital improvements funds, that are set aside for specific purposes to be used for future projects.

City resident Karen Candelaria – asked where in the budget are there monies going to investments? Thomsen stated that the 2022 budget is a "bare-bones" budget and these monies are not invested but spent on the services the city provides.

City resident Martha Renneberg - Asked why her taxes had gone up so much? Mayor Olson explained that the statement that was sent out from the county was based on the preliminary budget which projected a 42.7% increase for the city portion, which had now been lowered to 4.7%. Mayor Olson then stated that what the County and the School District are taxing, are out of the city's control. Residents will have to attend the meetings (on the proposed tax statement) for the county and school to express their concerns.

City resident Robert Johnson – Asked about the 50 residents who don't pay a water bill? Public Works Director Ron Yliniemi answered the question, stating that the 50 accounts pay a monthly service charge and estimated usage on the water. Johnson stated that he felt the Liquor Store is a business and it should make money for the city. Thomsen commented that currently the Liquor Store is showing a profit.

City resident Lori Tomperi commended Betty Thomsen on her hard work to get the budget increase over 2021, down to 4.7% from the original 42.7%. Tomperi commented that the 4.7% increase was lower than the rate of inflation.

#### **D. Close the Public Hearing**

Mayor Olson thanked everyone for their comments and closed the public hearing.

#### **Main Motion: To close the Public Hearing at 6:37 pm**

Moved by:	Warmbold
Seconded by:	Keranen
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Tomperi, Warmbold, Olson, Keranen, Huebner
Opposed:	None.

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Temporary Administrative Tech, Jensine Kurtti

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Mayor Elizabeth Olson