

**City of Westwood Hills
Budget Hearing Minutes
Date: August 8, 2016**

Mayor Paula Schwach called the August 8, 2016, Budget Hearing to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Mayor Schwach, Rosemary Podrebarac, Karen Shelor, Ludwig Villasi, and Beth O'Bryan. City Attorney Jim Orr and City Treasurer John Martin were also present.

No citizens were in attendance.

Budget Discussion:

Mayor Schwach explained the budget process and the reason for the mill levy increase proposed to all in attendance. The City proposes an increase of 4.0 or 4.5 mills to a total of 25.000 or 25.5000 mills for calendar year 2017. The proposed mill increase would put the City of Westwood Hills right in the middle of the other Johnson County cities' mill levy rates.

Schwach asked for questions/comments from the council.

Shelor asked if the proposed 2017 budget takes into account the possible increased sales tax revenues for the City should the courthouse initiative pass. Schwach reported that it does not. Should we receive the increased sales tax revenue from the county, Schwach advised that the Council would determine where to utilize the additional funds and recommended any such monies be put into the Capital Improvement Plan or a reserve fund. Villasi felt the mill levy should be raised. Shelor asked if the City could raise the mill next year without a public vote for the cost of a crossing guard. Schwach thought the exception from the public vote requirement for an increase in real estate taxes was limited to police, and not public safety in general, but was not certain. Martin reported that the difference between 4.0 and 4.5 mills generates an additional \$3,599.00 in real estate taxes.

Podrebarac asked that if we would be able to increase the mill rate if the appraised and assessed valuations in the City decrease. Martin answers in the affirmative. For future budget years, without a public vote approving an increase, the amount of the total real estate taxes will remain the same (adjusted for inflation), and the mill rate will adjust based upon the total appraised valuation of the property within the City.

Podrebarac moved and Shelor seconded to close the hearing to public comment. All in favor. Motion carried.

Shelor moved to set the mill levy rate at 25.5 mills and to adopt the 2017 calendar year budget as presented. Podrebarac seconded. All in favor. 2017 budget passed.

All council members signed the required budget adoption document.

Podrebarac moved to adjourn the budget hearing. Hearing adjourned at 7:25 p.m.