

**Minutes  
Of the City of Crystal Lake Park, Missouri  
Special Board of Alderpersons Meeting**

**Public Hearing on the  
Proposed 2009 Tax Levy for Residential Property in CLP**

**August 24, 2009**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

**Officials:** Present: Mayor Bonnie Taylor, Alderpersons Phillip Bryant, Kelly Larson, and Chris Sanders. Absent: Dennis Nahnsen

**Commissioners:** Present: Streets: Jim Cooper, Communications: Jonathan Carey-Voris

**Administrators:** Present: City Clerk Cathryn Terrell, Treasurer Jane Southard, Attorney Paul Martin

**Approve Agenda**

Alderson Sanders moved and Alderson Larson seconded to approve the amended August 24, 2009, agenda. The Board unanimously agreed to approve the agenda of for the August 24, 2009, meeting.

**New Business**

The Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Taylor. Attorney Martin introduced Bill 457/Ordinance 431 establishing the annual rate of tax levy for the year 2009. He emphasized that, as the City becomes more professionally run, it is important to keep current revenue levels stable.

The proposed tax rates are:

Residential Real Estate	\$0.641
Agricultural	\$0.000
Commercial Real Estate	\$0.288
Personal Property	\$0.808

Treasurer Southard reported the Maximum Authorized Levy [most recent Voter Approved Rate] is 0.8700, considerably higher than the 0.6410 being proposed for 2009. The rate being proposed for 2009 is about 25% lower than the maximum authorized tax rate. The Board is authorized to approve this tax rate because it does not exceed the Voter Approved Rate. The Board is also authorized to approve a voluntary reduction.

The automatic calculations are submitted to the State Auditor for review and then to the St. Louis County Dept. of Revenue for approval. The rate increase is for the purpose of generating revenue similar to the prior year. The proposed tax increase would be an increase from 2008 of \$1,130 for Crystal Lake Park. This will average \$6.00 per household in tax increase.

Public Hearing on the 2009 Tax Levy

The Adjusted Current Year Assessed Valuation is \$15,331,080. This is 3.5581% less than the Prior Year Assessed Valuation of \$15,896,700 with a tax rate of 0.6120. The calculations for the Adjusted Current Year Assessed Valuation resulted in the tax rate of 0.6410.

Regarding budgetary priorities, Ms. Penny Hill, Hochschild, Bloom & Co, said the CLP budget is close to the actual.

The unreserved balance of the General Fund was \$144,928, or 63% of total General Fund expenditures, at the end of 2008. The current balance in the Reliance checking account is \$227,822.43.

Resident Vesper McDonald, 2134 East Drive, asked is there was a quorum for the Board of Alderpersons. Mayor Taylor stated there is a quorum. Ms. McDonald questioned if the Board could vote for the tax levy or if the tax levy needs to be put to a vote for the residents. Ms. McDonald read from Senate Bill No. 711 saying in a year of general reassessment, the tax rate ceiling shall revise. Attorney Martin asked if Ms. McDonald has talked to an attorney, the St. Louis Dept of Revenue, or the MO State Auditor. Mrs. McDonald has not. Attorney Martin assured Ms. McDonald that the MO State Auditor and the St. Louis County Dept. of Revenue has approved the tax rate for 2009.

Treasurer Southard reported again that the Maximum Authorized Levy amount for CLP is 0.8700. Ms. Hill thought this was approved by the voters approximately 15 years ago.

Ms. MacDonald asked what the surplus was in CLP. As previously reported, the current balance in the Reliance checking account is \$227,822.43. Per Mayor Taylor, CLP continues to put funds in the street maintenance line item in order to pay for street repairs as needed instead of taking out a loan with interest to pay for large street projects. Per Attorney Martin, \$145,000 is not committed to foreseeable expenditures. Per Attorney Martin, CLP had a large street project costing approximately \$700,000 a few years ago. CLP did not have funds set aside and had to borrow money in order to pay for the project.

Resident MacDonald asked if the budget is reviewed on a regular basis. Per Alderperson Larson, the budget is public record and meeting minutes are on the web. Per Mayor Taylor, the budget is reviewed and adjusted regularly. The only services the city is able to negotiate are emergency services, leaf removal, and snow removal. Alderpersons Bryant reminded everyone that the leaf removal contract had been reviewed recently and he does not believe there are excess expenditures in the budget.

Resident Sharon McCurdy, 2120 Crystal Drive, asked who maintains the trees in CLP. Per Mayor Taylor, CLP is not responsible for trees on private property.

Alderperson Sanders asked what would be the projected shortfall if the tax rate is not approved, and if the Board has the ability to set the rate. Projected tax revenue with 0.6410 is \$98,418. Using the tax rate of 0.6120, the amount would be \$93,826 – a difference of about \$5,000. Alderperson Sanders does not support the tax increase.

Alderperson Sanders made a motion for the tax rate to be 0.6120. There was no second to the motion. The Board did not approve the motion for the tax rate to be 0.6120.

Resident Cathryn Terrell, 2233 Divot Drive, shared that she has been pleased with the services provided by Crystal Lake Park as a result of the taxes we pay. This is a very small tax increase that enables CLP to continue their current services. Ms. Terrell supports the tax increase.

Resident Jim Gehringer, 2123 Oak, shared if residents would like taxes to go down, a public hearing could be held to decide what services to cut out. Mr. Gehringer stated there have been years when the tax levy has gone down and the board has made the decision to decrease the tax rate when it's not needed.

Aldersperson Larson said she could not have her leaves picked up [a service provided by CLP using tax dollars] for the average tax increase of \$6.00 a year.

Resident Cecelia Rowland, 2332 Putter Lane, shared her appreciation for the extra things CLP does for its residents. Our community has been created in part due to the summer picnic, Santa, movie night, Spring egg event, flower day, Halloween parade, etc. The community is built around these events, and they are what help keep our property values up. Ms. Rowland encouraged CLP to keep the events that make CLP special. Ms. Rowland supports the tax increase.

Aldersperson Bryant said the goal of the tax increase is to keep a steady income. He does not feel there is a significant impact on any resident.

Aldersperson Sanders asked if there could be a show of hands from the residents in attendance in order to see the percentage of who approves the tax rate increase and who is against it. Mayor Taylor asked for a show of hands. Approximately 75-80% of the residents were in favor of the tax rate increase.

Resident Lydia Sanders, 11915 Mattox Ct, asked if there are investment vehicles for CLP that might provide the funds needed to make up the difference between the current tax rate and the increased tax rate. Per Mayor Taylor, CLP has been advised by the previous attorney that there was not enough money which is not committed to foreseeable expenditures to invest in this way.

Mr. Gehringer said the city needs to be careful where the money is invested. Mr. Gehringer said the past street repairs were over \$700,000. There is money going into a specific account for upcoming street repairs and city needs. As CLP becomes a real city, we need to save for what comes up. The checking account is drawing interest. Mr. Gehringer shared how the Board of Alderspersons does not just plan for this year, but for ten years down the road. The city had no taxes for a few years, and the city ended up paying for it when they had to take out a loan for street repairs. Mr. Gehringer invited everyone to the monthly meetings and the yearly budget meeting.

#### **Vote: Annual Rate of Tax Levy for the Year 2009**

Aldersperson Sanders moved to read Bill 457/Ordinance 431 by title only for the first time amending Bill 457/Ordinance 431 to reflect a resident tax rate of .612, and not impose an increase for 2009. There was no second. Aldersperson Sanders acknowledged the residents are largely in favor of the tax increase.

Aldersperson Sanders moved for Bill 457/Ordinance 431 to be read for the first time by title only and to be adopted as Bill 457/Ordinance 431. Aldersperson Larson seconded and it was unanimously approved. Attorney Martin read Bill 457/Ordinance 431 by title only for the first time.

Public Hearing on the 2009 Tax Levy

BILL 457/ORDINANCE 431 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL RATE OF TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2009 ON ALL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE PARK; PROVIDING FOR THE EXTENSION OF TAXES ON THE BOOKS OF THE COLLECTOR OR BY THE DIVISION OF EXTENSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, AND THE COLLECTION THEREOF BY THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY COLLECTOR AS AGENT FOR THE CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE PARK.

Aldersperson Bryant moved for Bill 457/Ordinance 431 to be read for the second time by title only and to be adopted as Bill 457/Ordinance 431. Aldersperson Sanders seconded and the ordinance was unanimously approved. The Alderspersons voted as follows: Aldersperson Sanders - aye; Aldersperson Larson - aye; Aldersperson Bryant – aye. Mayor Taylor then declared Bill 457, Ordinance 431 approved.

**Vote to Adjourn the Meeting**

There being no further questions or business before the Board, a Motion was made by Aldersperson Sanders and seconded by Aldersperson Larson, to adjourn the meeting and move to closed session for attorney-client communications and personnel issues per RSMo 610.021.1 and 610.021.3. The Motion was unanimously approved.

MINUTES RECORDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
*City Clerk, Cathryn Terrell*

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Mayor/Presiding Officer, Bonnie Taylor*