



CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE HEARING of the Mayor and Council of Brentwood

Date: April 15, 2020

Council:

- (X) Council Member Jerry Burgess
- (X) Vice Mayor Tonya Harrison-Edwards
- (X) Council Member Marcus Monroe
- (X) Council Member Alicia Tarr
- (X) Mayor Roció Treminio-López

Town Staff:

- (X) Cynthia Mann, Town Administrator
- (X) Giselle Richards, Town Clerk
- (Exc) Chief Althoff, Brentwood Police Dept.
- (X) Shelley Dorsey, Treasurer

Call to order at 6:11PM

Working Agenda Items

Constant Yield Tax Rate Notice

Public Comments

- AC Warden -40th St. Stated, in terms of \$100 of assessed value I would be paying \$415 to Brentwood, if my rate goes up to .4150 rate it would go up to \$622.50. As far as I'm concerned this is a tax increase. I agree with CM Burgess that if we go with the county's rate it's still an increase. This is still more than what I currently pay. In light of the Covid-19 emergency we should go with the .393 rate.
- Ms. Pomerleau – The house on the next block from me a modest house sold for \$500,000. I agree with going to the constant rate.
- Jen K. Varnum St- I agree with CM Burgess to adopt the county's rate of .3943.
- Felipe on Taylor St – I would support going with the county's .3943 rate.
- Heidi and Simon Hall on 39th St. – Support going with the county's .3943 rate. What's the value of the additional \$55,000?
- Lauren & Justin Gifford - Perry Street– In consensus with everyone else to decrease the rate to the county's .3943 rate.
- Rosa W. – Would like to understand a better understanding of what we were getting?
- Carole Brown 40th place - I have questions. Looking at the budge, it seems as if there are many raises planned in administration. I wonder why we do not use the Constant Yield Rate, and why the raises are scheduled as there will some gain from the constant rate already for the town. I am with the majority to not move to the higher rate.
- Lauren on Varnum St – I do not recommend increasing this year. Maybe next year.
- Deborah - I agree with CM Burgess. He stated it very well. Without a specific goal or initiative, I'm for reducing the rate to maintain current revenue.

- From Nat Washington on Tilden St. I support going with the Constant Rate of 3.93%
- Melanie - And will there be a referendum on these issues on election day? Why are the goals so high, then?
- Bill Joines on Upshur- he is against any tax increase until such time as the depression/recession is over. He stresses fiscal responsibility. He supports a good food bank and would like us to be cautious with voting rights to make sure we don't become divided. Not opposed, but cautious.
- Loraine Bennett on 37th Place (Via email) - Although I was at first confused by the public announcement, on a careful read of the proposal it appears that the rate property owners currently pay will remain the same (0.4150 per \$100). However, because of the rise in property values, the result will likely be an increase in revenues to the town of Brentwood, creating an offset to some of the losses the town will suffer as a result of the effects of the virus. If my understanding is correct, then I support the proposed maintenance of the current rate.
- Vicken Aykazian Maria Princi on Utah Ave (Via email) - I hope that no decisions will be taken while taxpayers will be excluded from the forum. Our property is at 4005 Utah Ave and our position is that now is not the time to discuss this issue and that the assessment rate should be left as-is. We are paying a premium as it is to the Town of Brentwood - and to Prince Georges County where tax rates are substantially higher than other neighboring jurisdictions but the quality of education, etc is not on par or comparable. While we appreciate the services offered, we are not residents or owner occupants of our property thus we are already taxed at the higher rates possible. In addition, the changes to the flood map in recent years mandates neighbors on many of the streets in Brentwood especially Allison St, Webster, etc. to purchase costly FEMA flood insurance policies. This combined with the high property taxes, makes purchasing a home in Brentwood these days almost out of reach to the average person. If the Town of Brentwood remains tone deaf to the upcoming recession and economic downturn, we will experience another wave of foreclosures and short sales worse than we did in 2008. Taxes are being raised while taxpayers are unemployed, underemployed, tenants are asking for rent forgiveness or delay but mortgage companies are not willing to work with people, so it is only a matter of time. Please reconsider any increases in 2020.
- George Denny on Taylor Street (Via email) - Congratulations for setting forth the Constant Yield Tax Rate situation in a concise, easy to understand, informative manner. While I will not participate in the video conference, I DO SUPPORT the intention of the Mayor and Council to retain the current tax rate. Please record my support in whatever format you deem appropriate. Thanks, and stay safe.

- Mrs. Curtis on Allison St (Via call) - "I don't think we should be raising taxes at this time due to the crisis we are facing"
- Mr. Abel on 40th St. (Via voicemail) – In favor of the increased rate as long as the police department is cut.
- Mr. Blackwell (Via call) – Not in favor of any raising of taxes.
- Mr. Welsh (Via voicemail) – Not in favor of raising taxes.

Mayor and Council Comments

- Mayor stated that no one discussed increasing the rate. We are proposing keeping the town's existing rate or moving to the county's current rate of .3943.
- Treasurer keeping current .4150 rate will increase revenue by \$55,000
- CM Tarr stated that this decision was done before the pandemic.
- Mayor – stated, when I submitted the proposed budget, I considered keeping the current rate because I would have liked to add a new police officer.
- Treasure, the actuals you are seeing are thru February. There are still 4 months for this year that are not included.
- CM Tarr – I considered using the \$55,000 to use for things like the senior credit.
- CM Burgess – Supports going the county's CYTR rate of .393. Asked residents to stay engaged.
- CM Monroe – Agree if we could try to maintain. Has everyone done the Homestead Tax Credit?
- Mayor – We rely on your opinion. It' was a proposed to spend money, now we need to review how to save money during this difficult time.

Adjourn at 6:57 pm

Submitted by: 

Giselle Richards
Town Clerk

Mayor, Rocio Treminio-López

Approved: 
