

**BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL  
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING  
DECEMBER 2, 2013**

**TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER. ROLL CALL.**

The Belle Plaine City Council conducted the Truth in Taxation hearing on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. Mayor Pingalore called the meeting to order with Councilmembers Gary Trost, Cary Coop, Paul Chard and Scott Schneider present. Also present were Interim City Administrator Dawn Meyer and Police Chief Tom Stolee.

Mayor Pingalore explained the purpose of the Truth in Taxation Hearing is to allow public comment on the proposed 2014 budget and levy. Mayor Pingalore explained that comments regarding valuation will be addressed at the Board of Review held in April, 2014.

Interim City Administrator Meyer provided an overview of the status of the proposed budget for 2014. A copy of the proposed budget, levy and capital improvement plan were available for public review.

**2. TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING.**

Mayor Pingalore opened the public hearing at 6:09 p.m. and asked for public comment.

Shawn Larson, 1024 Provence Lane, asked why the city property taxes are so high and explained that his taxes have risen 40% over a period of eight years. He asked the city council to reduce spending and take other measures to reduce taxes.

There were no further comments.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Chard, to close the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Chard said he understands the frustration of Mr. Larson and that a similar situation occurred with his property taxes. He said it is difficult to accept the increases, however, the city needs to operate and expenses are necessary, especially street reconstruction and repairs. Mayor Pingalore explained the city council is working hard to increase commercial and industrial growth in an effort to offset property taxes. Councilmember Trost concurred with the comments of Councilmember Chard and Mayor Pingalore, and added that the proposed CSAH 3 bridge will increase taxes and utility rates will be raised January 1, 2014, adding to the burden.

**3. ADJOURN.**

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Chard, to close the Truth in Taxation hearing and adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Furthermore, a continuation hearing is not necessary. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings  
Recording Secretary