

APPROVED

**BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
TRUTH IN TAXATION
DECEMBER 1, 2025**

1. Call to Order. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine City Council conducted the Truth in Taxation Hearing on Monday, December 1, 2025 at 6:00 PM at City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. Mayor Ladd called the meeting to order with Councilmembers James Evans, Rex Stacey and Luke Otto present. Councilmember Brady Hartmann was absent.

Also present was City Administrator Dawn Meyer, Finance Director Jirik, Police Chief Stier, City Attorney Vose, City Engineer Duncan and Public Works Superintendent Otto present. Wanda Savage served as the video recording operator.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – TRUTH IN TAXATION.

The Council will accept public comment on the proposed 2026 Budget and Levy.

Finance Director Jirik provided an overview of the proposed budget and levy.

Mayor Ladd read the truth in taxation statement which explains the purpose of the Truth in Taxation Hearing is to allow public comment on the proposed 2026 budget and levy.

Mayor Ladd opened the public hearing at 6:12 PM and asked for public comment.

Brett Kruschke, 844 Daniel Drive, spoke on high property taxes, suggested setting a fixed percentage for annual increases, and house valuations being speculative.

Tracy Hein, 315 S. Cedar Street, spoke on high property taxes, suggested a moratorium on new building and noted people are moving out of town.

Mark Warner, 800 Sunrise Lane, inquired on justification of stress pay, six story ladder truck, a larger budget than New Prague, and calculation of votes for the District referendum.

Paul Stienessen, 210 S. Elm Street, inquired on the difference in New Prague and Belle Plaine budgets, what the city does to attract business and how much land owners pay versus businesses in taxes.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Otto to close the public hearing at 6:45 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Schedule Continuation Hearing, if necessary.

None.

4. Adjourn.

MOTION by Councilmember Stacey, second by Councilmember Otto, to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Eyrich
Recording Secretary