

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
FY 2009 Constant Yield Tax Rate
Tuesday, May 13, 2008
7:20 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Wojahn (arrived 7:30 p.m.), Catlin, Perry, Stulich (arrived 7:34 p.m.), Mark Cook, Hampton and Mary Cook; Student Liaison Danielle Kogut.

ABSENT: Councilmember Molinatto.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Leo Thomas, Deputy Director of Finance; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services.

Mayor Brayman opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m. and invited Steve Groh to give an overview. Mr. Groh stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to hear comment on whether the City should reduce its tax rate from 29.9¢ to 26.2¢ per \$100 of assessed value to retain the constant yield. He explained that the City of College Park is proposing to not reduce its tax rate to the constant yield tax rate. He reviewed how the state calculates the constant yield tax rate for each municipality. Because of estimated increases in the assessable base, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) has calculated that the City's constant yield tax rate would be 26.2¢, meaning that in order to realize the same amount of real property tax revenue in FY 2009 as it did in FY 2008, the City would have to reduce its tax rate from 29.9¢ to 26.2¢. If a jurisdiction elects not to reduce its tax rate to retain the constant yield, they are required to do this advertisement and hold this public hearing. Mr. Groh reviewed the state mandated advertisement.

Mayor Brayman invited public testimony.

Jerzy Smolenski, 4600 Kiernan Road: He is retired, lives on a fixed income, and is not able to pay more taxes. Prices are getting higher. He doesn't agree with a tax increase; thinks the City should find a way to reduce taxes.

Christine Nagle, 9506 52nd Avenue: Is strongly opposed to the City's plan not to conform with the Constant Yield provisions. Thinks its unfair to put this burden on to City residents. Wants the Council to enact a budget that is fiscally responsible. She submitted a statement to the City Clerk.

Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road: Discussed the County's TRIM amendment. Thinks that at this time when everything is sky high, the City should not get more than they got in the last fiscal year.

Alan Tyler, 7204 Bowdoin Avenue: Asked the Council to do away with the Constant Yield Tax Rate. It is a waste of time, energy and common sense to expect the City to collect the same amount of taxes each year by lowering the tax rate in order that the new lower rate yields the City the same amount of revenue as the previous year from property tax.

Stacia Hutchison, 4710 Kiernan Road: Wants the City to conform to the Constant Yield to keep the assessment at the value that it was last year. Costs are going up; she wants to pay what she paid last year.

There being no further public comment, the Public Hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate was declared closed at 7:38 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk