

**CITY OF WILMORE MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
September 3, 2020**

The Wilmore City Council met in a special called session on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Harold L. Rainwater presiding. Councilmembers present were: Jeff Baier, Jim Brumfield, Kim Deyer, Leonard Fitch and David Riel..

Attorney Robert L. Gullette III was present

Not present: Councilmember Andy Bathje

The City of Wilmore held a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed real property tax rate for 2020. The proposed property tax rate for real property is 22.40 cents per \$100 of property. The tax base for Wilmore for real property is 216 million. Real property consists of land, structures, and buildings. The proposed property tax rate for personal (tangible) property is 80.37 cents per \$100 of property. The tax base for Wilmore for personal property is 4 million. Personal property consists of contents within these structures and buildings.

Finance Director Lori Vahle stated that most residents do not pay tangible property tax. They only pay the real property taxes on their houses. Wilmore is unique because so much of Wilmore's property is tax exempt which is about 48%. Lori looked at the 50 closest cities in Kentucky that are closest in population to Wilmore and the average real property tax in those cities is 22.8 cents per \$100. The 20 closest to Wilmore is 24.17 cents per \$100. So the proposed real property tax rate of 22.40 cents does not seem out of line with those. If you look at the history of our tax rate the 22.40 tax rate was the rate in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Starting in 2016 we started going with the compensating rate so our tax rate started to decrease. We need to get back to where we were.

Mayor Rainwater opened the floor to the public.

Scott Rhinehart stated that Wilmore has the 32nd highest tax rate in the state. He also stated that he is personally going to pay a large amount of taxes since he is working from home now. He is not happy that he has to pay all of these taxes because he is a resident of Wilmore.

Lori Vahle stated that based on a \$100,000 house, residents only have to pay an increase of \$16 a year from last year's tax rate.

Councilmember Deyer asked Magistrate Tim Vaughan what the county's proposed tax rate is. Their current rate is 8.1, the comp rate is 8.8, the county is proposing 9.1.

Mayor Rainwater informed Scott that his Wilmore taxes are one fourth of the county's taxes.

Lori Vahle asked Scott Rhinehart how he got his figures for Wilmore being the 32nd highest in the state and he stated that he summed the first two columns on personal and real and then did a rank formula. She stated that we are actually 11th in the state for tangible and 196 out of 300 for real property.

Councilmember Deyer thanked Lori for all the work that she did.

Motion by Councilmember Brumfield to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Harold L. Rainwater  
Mayor Harold L. Rainwater

**ATTEST:** Sharon Moore  
Sharon Moore, City Clerk