

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED TAX RATE
CITY OF DIBOLL, TEXAS
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016
400 Kenly St. 5:15 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:15 PM by Mayor McClain

Council Members Present – Hendrick, Ivey, Farley, Lopez, Hernandez, and Moses. Staff members- City Manager Boren and Finance Director Garza

REGULAR AGENDA: DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE OF \$0.615 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED EVALUATION FOR 2016.

Mayor McClain opened the Public Hearing

Citizens present were concerned of the increase in municipal taxes as well as the increase of school and college taxes. Council member Lopez stated the School District was not raising the tax rate. The citizens felt that most of the city taxes were being spent on the east side of town and want to see the funds spent in their side of the community. Several issues were brought to the attention of the governing body.

1. **Concern of the \$200,000 spent in the park and there were improvements needed to Walter Allen Park. Mayor McClain explained that this park was not a City Park and belonged to the Diboll Housing Authority. He further explained that the budget was primarily for labor and equipment. Finance Director Garza also stated that this budget item also included the maintenance of the city cemetery.**
2. **Concern that the city did not maintain the other cemetery. Mayor McClain explained that this was a private cemetery operated by another board of citizens. She stated that at one time the city was asked to take over the property. City Manager Boren stated that the city could take it over as long as there was an agreement and documentation. Council Member Moses stated that the cemetery belongs to the community. Mayor McClain and City Manager Boren asked to be invited to the next board meeting so that this issue could be discussed further.**
3. **Concern that the golf course was operating in a deficit. Mayor McClain explained that the funds spent in previous years were for needed improvements to the facilities including the Civic Center. It was explained that most of these funds were from the foundation. He continued to state that the golf course was expected to lose money and would be expected to continue to lose about 80 to 100 thousand dollars although Deer Trace has new homes constructed with few homes for sale due to the golf course. It was also explained that the Civic Center was losing money as well. There was a complaint that the rates at the Civic Center was too high. Mr. Gores from the audience explained that the rates were lowered to attract other venues to increase the occupancy. The city has these facilities which many cities our size does not. These were given by Mr. Temple and the city has to pay for the upkeep and operations. Mayor McClain invited citizens to get involved and be on the committees of the city.**
4. **Concern of the low grade material during the construction of the streets. Wants people to hold the contractors held accountable. Concerned of the area at Elm and Ash, Drainage issues on Maynard, a sidewalk at a residence that was never put back when the streets were repaired. Mayor McClain stated the he would drive the city manager to these areas and look at these issues.**
5. **Concern of the need for streets lights on Persimmon, Beech and Cyprus Streets.**
6. **Concern of speeders on S. First Street adjacent to Walter Allen Park. The citizens were informed that the Police Department would increase patrol in this area. There was also a request for additional street lights along the park.**
7. **Mayor McClain explained that on a \$30,000 value the increase would be about \$12.50 a year.**


8. **City Manager Boren request that the citizens use the work order system so that the issues could be tracked and the work would be more efficient. If the citizens did not have internet or wanted they could call city hall or bring a list and a work order could be completed by the staff.**

2. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing closed by Mayor McClain.

ADJOURN

Meeting Adjourned by Mayor McClain



John McClain, Mayor