

The Milnor City Council convened as a Board of Equalization at 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 8, 2024. Council members present: Curtis Anderson, Monty Haugen, Jodi Ost, and Ryan Weber. Absent: Austin Roeder. Also present: Carol Peterson, LeeAnn Even, LaJuana Hayen, Scott Johnson, Rick Bryant, Jeff Halmrast, Michael McGlasson, Emmalynn Mood, Jeff Mund, Marlys Nicolai, Ray Hogness, Robert Lotzer, Ryan Smith, Terry Dusek and Jennie Hanna. Member Jasmine Smith joined the meeting later.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Terry Dusek.

The City had received The Assessment Workbook for 2024 the morning of the Equalization meeting. The mayor and members of council did not have a chance to review it prior to the meeting. LaJuana Hayen, Sargent County Tax and Assessment Director, was present to review with the Council and those in attendance the proposed 2024 Tax Assessments for the City of Milnor. Hayen explained the increases in valuations were due to the state's overall 15% increase, along with a 10% land increase and a county-recommended 11% structural increase. The increases are related to higher selling prices in housing. Many city residents stated their valuations had increased considerably, but there had been no improvements to their residence, and they questioned the formula being used to calculate valuations. Hayen stated that a valuation increase does not necessarily mean a property tax increase and stated that if the city did not approve the county-suggested valuation increase, it would go to the state for a decision, and the increase would most likely be higher than what the county is suggesting.

Motion to accept the Real Estate Exemptions and Veterans and Homestead Tax Credits as presented (Haugen/Ost, unanimous).

There was a discussion about tabling a motion on accepting the assessments so council would have time to review the assessment book. Hayen stated there was a May 7 deadline for a decision. Mayor Dusek stated council could meet on Monday, May 6.

Motion to accept the Sargent County Tax Director's Tax Assessments for the year 2024 for Milnor City as presented (Anderson/Ost, with a roll call vote taken with Anderson and Ost voting aye, Haugen, Weber and Smith voting nay. Absent: Roeder). Motion failed.

Council will meet on Monday, May 6, 2024 and make their decision at that time.

Motion to adjourn (Anderson/Ost, unanimous).

Jennie Hanna, Auditor

Terry Dusek, Mayor