

A special meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chambers with Councillor Sullivan presiding. The meeting was called to order at 8:04pm with ten members being present. Councillor Barnes absent.

In City Council, December 15, 2014

**570** Call of the meeting

Accepted and placed on file.

**564** Ordered: That the City Council hereby determines the percentages of the local tax levy in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Ch. 40, Section 56, to be borne by each class of real property, as defined in Section 2A of Chapter 59, and personal property. (IN CITY COUNCIL, DECEMBER 8, 2014, CONTINUED TO SPECIAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 15, 2014)

The hearing from December 8, 2014, and continued to December 15, 2014 was opened. Councillor Sullivan stated that the people to speak on the commercial tax rate would be heard first, then the residential. Councillor DuBois questioned if the councillors could stay seated. The Council President said that they could stay seated for this meeting. He stated that this is not a discussion forum. It is not question and answer. The residents can state if they are for or against the tax rate. Chris Cooney spoke regarding the commercial rates. He stated that if the city could move towards 1.5, it would be good for businesses. He stated that Worcester move their commercial rates to 1.3's. Ron Matta spoke on the residential taxes. He stated that the Mayor said there would be no tax hikes. He didn't want the residential tax rate to go up. Jim Bosco questioned the retirement fund – the money came from free cash and he thinks some of it could go towards taxes. Jean Falcone stated that she is on a fixed income and even a small increase would affect her. She stated that she believed city worker's pensions were too high. Councillor Sullivan stated that Paul Sullivan and Jay Condon were present to answer questions. Jay explains they are all here just to determine how the money is divided between the commercial and residential taxes. He recommended possibly a small move towards 1.5, like 1.54. He realizes that it is a difficult time for commercial and residential properties. DeNapoli questioned Paul about if he recommends the council voting 1.54? Paul stated that he does not recommend any rate. He is just there to answer questions and explain the rates. Councillor Rodrigues questioned Jay regarding why when one tax goes up, the other goes down. Jay explained, they have an amount due and it is split between the different classes that are taxed. It is the same amount, it is just how it is to be divided.

Hearing held.

Councillor DuBois motioned to set the tax rate at 1.56 and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; ten members present with seven voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cruise, DeNapoli and Sullivan voting in the negative. Councillor Barnes absent.

A two minute recess was called.

Back in session.

The question was on the order as a whole as follows;

Residential	64.6026
Commercial	25.2461
Industrial	4.5665
Personal Property	5.5848
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The factor for such classification shall be	1.56

**141**  
**HEARINGS (cont'd)**

The order was adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; ten members present with seven voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cruise, DeNapoli and Sullivan voting in the negative. Councillor Barnes absent. Councillor DuBois motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a hand vote.

Executive Session – litigation

Councillor Cruise motioned to go into executive session to discuss litigation strategy regarding the pending case of Brockton Power, and was properly seconded by Councillor Studenski . The motion carried by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councillor Barnes absent.

The Council President stated that the Council would not be coming back into the chambers after executive session. He also stated that discussing it in open meeting could be detrimental to the pending litigation.

Adjourned 8:41pm