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City Council reduces property tax levy to lowest level in 25 years

LIBERTY, Mo. – The City of Liberty City Council voted at its meeting on Aug. 24, 2020 to reduce the City’s property tax levy rate to \$0.8908 per \$100 of assessed valuation. This is the lowest property tax levy rate that the City has had in 25 years.

“Missouri state law allows us to increase the levy rate to more than over 9 percent for 2020, but this City Council decided to keep the revenue collections from citizens neutral. That means if you own the same property today as you did last year and there have been no significant changes in the assessed value of your real estate property, the City’s portion of your taxes should be about the same,” said Liberty Mayor Lyndell Brenton. “We have held the line on the City real estate property tax levy since the financial crisis of 2008-2009, and with the pandemic’s impact on our community, we felt it was even more vital to maintain that focus this year.”

The City Council could have set the rate as high as \$0.9798, but opted to maintain their commitment to keeping stable property tax bills for Liberty property owners. This year in particular, with the COVID-19 pandemic and economic uncertainty, it was a top priority of the Council to hold the City’s real estate property tax levy steady to help Liberty residents. This was a challenging decision when sales tax revenue for the City is facing a downward trend.

“The levy rate we have established is the lowest rate in more than 25 years. I appreciate the mindfulness of City staff and the Council to not raise the property tax burdens on citizens at a time when it is difficult on all of us,” Brenton said. “It will certainly be difficult on City budgets but we recognize that we are all shouldering difficult times and we will all figure out how to make things work.”

More information about the City of Liberty property tax levy, Liberty’s property tax rate as a whole and how to pay your property taxes is available online » www.libertymissouri.gov/97/Property-Taxes. This webpage will be updated with levies for all entities once they are made available from Clay County.

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