

City of Macedonia
Public Hearing on Proposed Property Taxes
Macedonia City Hall
March 30, 2026

Council Present: Mayor Knoke, J. Keast, T. Keast, Wax, Faxon Absent Swope.

Staff Present: Alff Public: Suzann Duede, Wong and Michelle Antunez, Candance Knop, Jason Towne, Mary Ohnmacht, Rhonda and James Croson, Mary Pumphrey, Staci Keast, Shirley Manzer, and Terry Pullen.

Mayor Knoke called the Public Hearing for Proposed Tax Hearing to order at 6:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by T Keast to Approve Agenda, 2nd by J Keast- All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Knoke opened the meeting to public input, inviting residents to share their questions and comments. Several topics were raised during the discussion. One of the questions was about the amount being requested for employee benefits. The council explained that, in the previous year's tax levy, no funds were allocated for health benefits for the current full-time employee, the city clerk. This adjustment reflects the city's plan to hire a full-time maintenance person, as full-time employees are eligible for health benefits. With the addition of another full-time employee, the city believes it is reasonable to seek assistance in covering benefit costs. After the meeting with recalculation, the requested amount was reduced from \$16,709 to \$10,000.

Comment was made about the town comparing Macedonia to Oakland and Carson. The city did compare the towns to address the issue of Federal Holidays as Federal Holidays are New Years, MLK Day, President's Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Reason for comparison is Oakland/Carson has full time employees where other small towns like Henderson/Silver City only employ their clerks as part time. Out of the 11 federal holidays the Macedonia clerk is only getting paid and closing for 9 of those days. Will be working and getting paid regular pay on the other days.

A question from the public was the necessity of hiring a full-time employee. Mayor Knoke addressed this by discussing the needs of city maintenance and operations. He explained that the combined wages paid to the city's two part-time employees are roughly equal to the salary of one full-time employee. With the recent resignation of the water/sewer operator, the mayor recommended hiring one individual to fill a full-time role. This person would manage the city's maintenance needs, address ongoing issues, and help the city save money by reducing dependence on contracted services and multiple part-time staff members. The mayor emphasized that employing a full-time worker would increase efficiency and ensure that maintenance tasks are performed consistently and effectively. If a full-time employee is not found, we will continue to investigate companies that offer water and sewer services. The only issue is those services are very limited and cost up to \$100,000 per year with basic water and sewer services only.

Residents also asked about the increase in property taxes. The council responded that last year's budget did not include any funds for employee health benefits and provided only a minimal amount for FICA/IPERS. As a result, the city needs to request an increase this year to help cover operational costs. The current city tax rate is 12.11 percent, which equates to an average increase of \$3 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Questions were asked about how the budget was planned and council stated Budget Workshops are open to public and residents are welcome to attend and learn about the costs the city is paying to keep the town up and running. Following these discussions Wax made a motion to adjourn the public hearing, 2nd by T. Keast. The public hearing was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Regular Meeting/Final Budget Workshop
March 30, 2026
7: 15pm

Council Present: Mayor Knoke, J. Keast, T. Keast, Wax, Faxon Absent Swope.

Staff Present: Alff Public: Suzann Duede, Wong and Michelle Antunez, Jason Towne, Mary Ohnmacht, Rhonda and James Croson, and Terry Pullen.

Mayor Knoke called the Regular Council meeting to order at 7:18 pm

Motion by Wax to Approve Agenda, 2nd by Faxon- All ayes, motion carried.

J Keast made a motion to set date for Public Proposed Budget Hearing for April 13, 2026 at 6pm with regular council meeting to follow. 2nd by Wax. All ayes, motion carried.

Clerk brought up the final budget workshop it was discussed and motioned at past meeting in October with Eckels Library past council members agreed to pay the library \$1029 a year. This year when doing the budget, the current council agreed to only pay \$539. Clerk questioned which amount the council would like to pay. Council member T Keast stated that library offers many events and provides services for town for free and agreed to keep set budget at \$1029 and asked that the clerk coordinate with the library to get monthly updates to add to the newsletter so residents know what is going on at the library.

Mayor also updated the council on the trailer house, due to trucking company having trucking issues they could not make it last week as planned to haul out the trailer and again asked for another extension as the plan would be out by April 6. Mayor agreed as it would help save the town costs of removal and cleanup but if not gone the hired contractor would be there and whatever is left will be cleaned up and Sergio would still be billed for the costs.

Motion to adjourn by J Keast, 2nd by Faxon. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Paden Knoke, Mayor

ATTEST: Liz Alff, City Clerk