The Hiawatha City Council met in a Work Session on August 21, 2017. Mayor Bill Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Council members present: Marty Bruns, Bob Rampulla, Dick Olson, Dennis Norton, and Aime Wichtendahl was present by conference call. Staff present: City Administrator Kim Downs and Finance Director Cindy Kudrna. Guests: none.

Rampulla moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Bruns. Motion carried.

Review and Discussion on Property Tax Levy Rate

Mayor Bennett explained he met with members of City Council over the last week to have discussions on his desire to lower the tax levy rate in order to be competitive to the surrounding cities. Bennett said in his discussions no one said there was no possible way to accomplish this goal. It is a $0.21 adjustment to bring Hiawatha's levy rate under Cedar Rapids.

City Administrator Downs said Finance Director Kudrna and Downs looked through the numbers and budget certification page and Kudrna prepared a breakdown of all the information into report pages in order to hold discussions with city council tonight.

Kudrna explained the report pages containing the following line items from the General Fund Levy:

- Liability Insurance Levy
- Emergency Levy
- Employee Benefits including FICA/MEDICARE, IPERS, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, Life Insurance, Workers Compensation and Fitness Reimbursement
- Debt Service Levy / General Obligation Debt

Other information shared from reports prepared for City Council:

- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP project commitments)
- State Backfill History
- Total Tax Levy History
- Tax Levy Rate Comparisons with Metro Area Cities
- Taxes Paid on $100,000 Value Property
- Assessed Property Valuation History
- Tax Levy Breakdown including City, County, State, Schools and Ag
- Property Rollback Trend
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) History

City Council and staff held discussion over the material presented to assist in identifying potential options for lowering the property tax levy rate and the effects of doing so prior to budget discussions in January/February, when the city will receive property tax revenue numbers from Linn County.

There being no further discussion, Rampulla moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 P.M., seconded by Bruns. Motion carried.

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Bill Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kelly Kornegor, City Clerk