

**TEXARKANA, Texas — During a regular meeting Monday, the City Council will hear briefings on a new budget and unchanging property tax rate.**

**City staff will brief the Council on a proposed property tax rate of \$0.70 per \$100 of assessed valuation, "equivalent to the current property tax rate," according to background information published with the meeting's agenda. Another briefing will inform the Council about the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.**

**A public hearing and vote on the budget will take place during the Council's Aug. 24 meeting, and the tax rate will be subject to a public hearing and vote Sept. 14.**

**The Council will also vote whether to authorize a ballot initiative arising from a petition circulated by the local firefighters union. If approved by voters, the measure would allow the union to force binding arbitration in contract negotiations.**

**The Council will also conduct public hearings and vote on a variety of zoning and permitting matters, as well as the city's spending plan for federal Community Development Block Grant funding.**

**A public hearing will also be conducted regarding the city's Fiscal Year 2021 master fee list.**

**Because of coronavirus concerns, the meeting will be held using teleconferencing software at 6 p.m. Monday. For information about participating, visit the city's website, [ci.texarkana.tx.us](http://ci.texarkana.tx.us), or call the city secretary at 903-798-3930.**