

CITY OF ROSENBERG

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On this the 30th day of August, 2016, the City Council of the City of Rosenberg, Fort Bend County, Texas, met in a Special Session, in the Rosenberg City Hall Council Chamber, located at 2110 4th Street, Rosenberg, Texas.

Present. Cynthia A. McConathy, Mayor
William Benton, Councilor at Large, Position 1
Amanda J. Barta, Councilor at Large, Position 2
Jimmie J. Pena, Councilor, District 1
Susan Euton, Councilor, District 2
Alice Jozwiak, Councilor, District 3
Lynn Moses, Councilor, District 4

Staff Present Linda Cernosek, City Secretary
Joyce Vasut, Executive Director of Administrative Services
Travis Tanner, Executive Director of Community Development
Tonya Palmer, Building Official
Lori Remington, Human Resources Director
Dallis Warren, Police Chief
Wade Goates, Fire Chief
Randall Malik, Economic Development Director
Rigo Calzoncin, Public Works Director
Jenny Pavlovich, Communications Manager
Luis Garza, Finance Manager
Daniel Kelleher, Main Street Manager
Danyel Swint, Executive Assistant
Nicole Emidy, Police Officer
John Thetford, Police Officer

Call to order: City Hall Council Chamber

Mayor McConathy called the meeting to order at 6 30 p m.

Announcements.

Councilor Barta invited first responders and their families to a special program and service on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 10 45 a.m. at the Calvary Baptist Church in Rosenberg

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE FOR CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS.

Citizens who desire to address the City Council with regard to matters on the Consent Agenda or Regular Agenda will be received at the time the item is considered Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Comments or discussion by the City Council Members will only be made at the time the agenda item is scheduled for consideration. It is our policy to have all speakers identify themselves by providing their name and residential address when making comments

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1 **Hold second public hearing to consider comments relating to the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year beginning October 01, 2016, and ending September 30, 2017, and take action as necessary.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chapter 26 of the Property Tax Code requires that taxing units comply with Truth-in-Taxation laws during the tax rate adoption process. These laws were designed to make taxpayers aware of tax rate proposals and to provide an avenue for comment. On August 08, 2016, City Council set two (2) public hearing dates to receive public comment regarding the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2016, and ending September 30, 2017 The required notice was published in the newspaper on August 14, 2016, to give the public the proper notification

The attached Notice of 2016 Tax Year Proposed Tax Rate states that a tax rate of \$0.47 per \$100 valuation has been proposed for adoption, which is the same rate as the 2015 tax rate The proposed rate exceeds the effective tax rate of \$0.441591, therefore, two public hearings are required before adopting the tax rate. The first public hearing was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 This is the second public hearing.

The Truth-in-Taxation laws also require that at each public hearing, the governing body must announce the date, time and place of the meeting at which it will vote on the tax rate. The meeting to vote on the tax rate has been set for Tuesday, September 06, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., at the Rosenberg City Hall Council Chamber at 2110 4th Street, Rosenberg, Texas 77471.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Joyce Vasut read the Executive Summary.
- Mayor McConathy opened the Public Hearing at 6:34 p.m.
- Ana Lee Reynoso, 2603 Waterbrook Lane, Rosenberg - Ms. Reynoso discussed the tax rate and asked for the rate to be cut to the \$0.45 rate. She stated that her house needed repairs, remodeled, and additionally has student and personal debt. She also has neighbors on fixed incomes with serious health issues that affects them as well.
- Hearing no further comment, Mayor McConathy closed the Public Hearing at 6:37 p.m.

2. Review and discuss Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget as submitted by the Interim City Manager on July 26, 2016, pursuant to the Rosenberg City Charter, and take action as necessary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item allows staff to present changes that have been recommended to the proposed Budget and provides City Council the opportunity to recommend additional changes. There are three items that have been identified by City Council:

1. Increase Property Tax Revenues.
2. Increase Salaries and Wages and benefits for the addition of three police officers.
3. Increase the Transfer to the General Supplemental Fund for equipment for the new police officer positions.

The FY2016-2017 proposed budget and tax rate will be considered for adoption at the September 06, 2016 City Council Meeting.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Joyce Vasut read the Executive Summary.
- Councilor Jozwiak addressed the speaker, Ana Reynoso, and explained the County, not the City, sets the property valuations. She also spoke for the citizens she hears from that want more safety in the City. She said she appreciates Ms. Reynoso's concern and wants residents to feel free to share their concerns.
- Councilor Barta explained the City has lost sales tax revenue this year with all the State Highway road projects under construction, and the need to balance the budget by keeping with the current property tax rate.
- Councilor Benton stated he believes funding three new officers is possible without raising the property tax rate, and asked Joyce Vasut what the budget was at this time last year.
- Joyce Vasut reported the General Fund adopted budget last fiscal year was \$26.9 million and this year the proposed General Fund budget is \$28.8 million.
- Councilor Benton asked if any department has proposed a decrease in their budget expenditures.
- Joyce Vasut answered that a few departments have proposed a decrease.
- Councilor Benton asked about several specific capital improvement projects such as the water tank on Minnow Road (FM2977) the north side sewer project, the Mulcahy Street water lines, and the Animal Control Shelter.
- Joyce Vasut explained all water and wastewater projects are paid for with water and wastewater funds. She also stated the Animal Control Shelter was paid for with Certificates of Obligation.
- Councilor Moses asked Joyce Vasut what savings a two-cent tax cut would result per household.
- Joyce Vasut stated a \$0.01 on an average household in Rosenberg would result in a \$12.00 per year savings and \$0.02 per household would result in a \$24.00 per year savings.
- Councilor Moses said she and her constituents prefer safety rather than a tax cut.
- Mayor McConathy spoke about the differing opinions from the Council. The City has a reserve in our budget, and by the nature of the reserve fund, that is a contingency fund. The City does not want to use those funds for reoccurring salaries each year. In this case, the City will be spending it for the officers and vehicles that will be a reoccurring expense. We are a city that provides a service to our citizens. Infrastructure is street repair, drainage repair and installing new drainage, and sidewalk repair to name a few. The City wants to make sure we have a balance, a fair perspective to utilize the reserve for a one-time expenditure. Mayor McConathy said she supports the tax rate staying the same to support the three new police officers. This is a tax increase, but the \$0.47 cents remaining the same is to increase our service and ability to provide first responders when citizens call 9-1-1.
- Mayor McConathy asked for any additional questions from the Council and there were none.

3. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Mayor McConathy adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.


Linda Cernosek, TRMC, City Secretary