



**MINUTES OF
WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
August 19, 2008**

The City Council of the City of Forest Hill met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor James Gosey presiding. The following council members and officials were present: Council Member Damian Dalcour, Lyndia Thomas, Gerald Joubert, Dulani Masimini, Drew Sanders, Mayor Pro Tem Mustafa Sami, City Manager David Miller, City Secretary Debbie Maness, Fire Chief Pat Ekiss, Finance Director Clifford Blackwell, III, Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle, and City Attorney Bonnie Goldstein.

Opening Agenda:

- I. Call to Order**
With a quorum present, Mayor Gosey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. Invocation**
Invocation was delivered by Council Member Lyndia Thomas
- III. Pledge to Flags**
Pledge to the United States and Texas flags were recited.
- IV. Citizens Presentation**
No one signed up for citizen's presentation.

Consent Agenda: - All consent agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda,

200893. Consider minutes of August 5, 2008 regular council meeting.
200894. Consider an Ordinance amending Chapter 1, "General Provisions" of the Forest Hill Code of Ordinances to establish a new Article II relative to the enforcement of codes; establishing regulations for the issuance of citations stemming from alleged criminal violations of ordinances; providing for the following: rules, standards; procedures; criminal penalties; and, severability

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sami to approve the consent agenda items 200893 and 200894. Seconded by Council Member Joubert, and **passed** as follows:

Ayes: Council Members Dalcour, Thomas, Joubert, Masimini, Sanders, Mayor Pro Tem Sami and Mayor Gosey
Nays: None

Deliberation Agenda:

200895. Discuss and consider an ordinance of the City of Forest Hill, Texas amending Chapter 34, "Business Regulations" of the Code of Ordinances to establish a new Article V "Rental

Properties”; providing for the licensing and inspection of rental properties; establishing procedures; establishing fees; establishing violations and providing for a penalty; providing a severability clause; declaring an emergency and providing an effective date.

City Attorney, Bonnie Goldstein stated that this ordinance sets forth licensing standards and inspection requirements for all residential rental properties. It provides an affirmative defense relative to licensing requirement and for violations of the ordinance. Inspections are proposed to be conducted bi-annually. The City hopes to address problem properties before they become serious health and safety concerns.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sami to approve item number 200895. Seconded by Council Member Thomas, and **passed** as follows:

Ayes: Council Members Dalcour, Thomas, Joubert, Masimini, Sanders, Mayor Pro Tem Sami and Mayor Gosey
Nays: None

200896. Discuss and consider tax rate for year 2008-2009 and take record vote.

Clifford Blackwell, Finance Director explained to the council that in order to comply with Chapter 26 of the Tax Code, the council must take a record vote because the tax rate the City Staff will recommend exceeds either the effective tax rate or the rollback rate whichever rate is lower. Mr. Blackwell reiterated that this was not the tax rate that the City would be adopting.

Council Member Thomas made a motion that the City Council adopt a tax rate **not to exceed** the rollback rate of \$0.991453 per \$100 assessed valuation on September 25, 2008. Seconded by Council Member Masimini, and **passed** as follows:

Ayes: Council Members Dalcour, Thomas, Joubert, Masimini, Sanders, Mayor Pro Tem Sami and Mayor Gosey.
Nays: None

200897. Schedule two public hearings September 16, 2008 and September 25, 2008 to discuss the proposed tax rate.

Clifford Blackwell, Finance Director explained for the City to be in accordance with Truth-in-Taxation laws, the City must schedule two public hearings to discuss the proposed tax rate that will generate an increase in tax revenues for the upcoming fiscal year.

Council Member Thomas made a motion that the City holds public hearings on September 16, 2008 and September 25, 2008. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sami, and **passed** as follows:

Ayes: Council Members Dalcour, Thomas, Joubert, Masimini, Sanders, Mayor Pro Tem Sami and Mayor Gosey.
Nays: None

VII. RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - Pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, the Council reserves the right to convene in Executive Session(s) from time to time as deemed necessary during this meeting for any posted agenda item, to receive advice from its attorney as permitted by law.

A. Pending or Contemplated Litigation or to seek the advice of the City Attorney pursuant to Section 551.071.

City of Forest Hill vs. David Vestal and Charles Gardner
David Vestal vs. City of Forest Hill
Betsy Elam and Bill Lane State Bar Grievance

- B. Section 551.074, Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters (1) To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee:

City Attorney, City Prosecutor, City Judge

Recessed into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m.

VIII. Reconvene into regular session

Council reconvened into regular session at 8:03 p.m.

IX. Take any action necessary pursuant to executive session.

Motion was made by Council Member Joubert to appoint Bonnie Goldstein as City Attorney. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sami, and **failed** as follows:

Ayes: Council Member Joubert and Mayor Pro Tem Sami

Nays: Council Members Dalcour, Thomas, Masimini, Sanders and Mayor Gosey

Council recessed into Executive Session at the request of the City Manager at 8:06 p.m.

Council reconvened into regular session at 8:08 p.m.

Motion was made by Council Member Masimini to appoint Bonnie Goldstein as Interim City Attorney. Seconded by Council Member Thomas, and **passed** as follows:

Ayes: Council Members Dalcour, Thomas, Joubert, Masimini, Sanders, Mayor Pro Tem Sami, and Mayor Gosey.

Nays: None

Adjourn into Workshop

Council adjourned into Workshop at 8:09 p.m. Council Member Damian Dalcour had to leave the meeting at this time.

200898. Discuss and consider setting certain goals and objectives for the City Manager for fiscal year 2008 - 2009

Discussion was led by Mayor Pro Tem Sami. With these goals and objectives the council is hoping to continue to push the City forward. The council needs to set goals and objectives that are important to this community. Each council member gave a list of what they would like to see the City Manager get accomplished for the betterment of the City.

Council Member Thomas – Code Compliance, methodology- provided to her ahead of time, customer service training, and economic development.

Council Member Masimini – Code enforcement, education and training of employees, technology update, water rates, easy to read budget, divided budget for Council.

Council Member Sanders – Work to achieve positive attitude, hire effective personnel, and dismiss dead weight, department heads work harmoniously, evaluate personnel annually, be abreast of city laws, and continue to train and educate employees, be able to understand all personnel.

Council Member Joubert – Economic Development, City Hall, Streets, Parks Master Plan, Comprehensive Master Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Sami – Comprehensive Master Plan with input from Council and citizens; finish within one year and done in-house. Parks Master Plan, streets, code compliance – reduce number of letters sent out thus be more effective with follow up. Expand City hall, more money for streets, values of homes.

Mayor Gosey – Youth programs, establish and enhance culture of the police department – reduce the number of complaints, provide good training, Economic Development, improve developer relations, improve permits and inspections process.

It was determined that the staff would compile the list and submit to the Council Members for them to review and have another meeting to discuss what are to be the goals and objectives for the City Manager.

Council reconvened into regular session at 9:05 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, council adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approval:

Debra W. Maness, City Secretary

James Gosey, Mayor