



MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING September 25, 2008

The City Council of the City of Forest Hill met on the above date at 7:03 p.m. with Mayor James Gosey presiding. The following council members and officials were present: Council Members Damien Dalcour, Lyndia Thomas, Gerald Joubert, Dulani Masimini, Drew Sanders, City Manager David Miller, City Secretary Debbie Maness, Fire Chief Pat Ekiss, Finance Director Clifford Blackwell, III, Police Chief Rex Phelps, Acting Public Works Director Roberto Duenes, Economic Development and Community Relations Director Venus Wehle. Mayor Pro Tem Mustafa Sami – Excused Absence

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.

2nd PUBLIC HEARING

To receive citizens comments on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 2.33 percent. Your individual taxes may increase a greater or lesser rate or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relations to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

Mayor Gosey opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Arlene Manning, 6812 Trailwood Drive, Forest Hill, expressed her concern about the increase in taxes. Finance Director, Clifford Blackwell, explained that the City's current tax rate was \$0.95 per \$100 value and will remain \$0.95 per \$100 value. However, while the tax rate remained the same, taxes could increase or decrease based the taxable value of your property.

With no one else to speak, Mayor Gosey closed public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

This public hearing is being held for citizen input on the City of Forest Hill proposed budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. The proposed budget will raise more total property tax revenues than last year's budget by \$308,261 or 8.7%, of which \$49,321 goes toward Debt Service and \$258,939 goes to General Fund Operations.

Mayor Gosey opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Mr. Blackwell explained that our advorem taxes are broken down in two parts; Debt Service (Interest and Sinking) which is used to pay the City's debt for G.O. and C.O. Bonds and Maintenance and Operations (M&O) which is used for the General Operations of the City.

With no one else to speak, Mayor Gosey closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

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 requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

2008115. Consider Resolution 13-2008, a resolution authorizing the city manager of the City of Forest Hill, Texas to execute an agreement by and between the City of Forest Hill and the Texas Department of Transportation wherein the Texas Department of Transportation provide funds for a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Wave Grant and providing an effective date.

Council Member Joubert made a motion to approve consent agenda item 2008115. Seconded by Council Member Thomas and **passed** as follows:

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

Deliberation Agenda:

2008116. Discuss and consider Resolution No. 14-2008, a resolution approving the tax assessment roll for 2008.

Finance Director, Clifford Blackwell explained that this resolution is submitted per Section 26.09(e) of the Texas Property Code. It is the recommendation of the staff to approve Resolution No. 14-2008.

Motion was made by Council Member Joubert to approve Resolution No.14-2008, approving the tax assessment roll for 2008. Seconded by Council Member Thomas and **passed** as follows:

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

2008117. Discuss and consider Ordinance No. 2008117, an ordinance adopting and approving a property tax increase reflected in the budget for the City of Forest Hill for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2008 and ending September 30, 2009, in accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 102.007; providing that all ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent that they are in conflict; providing a savings clause, providing an effective date.

Finance Director, Clifford Blackwell explained that the proposed budget for 2008-2009 fiscal year will raise more total property taxes than fiscal year 2007-2008 and pursuant to Section 102.007 of the Local Government Code the governing body must conduct a separate vote to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget.

Council Member Joubert made motion to approve Ordinance No. 2008117, to ratify property tax revenue increase reflected in fiscal year 2008-2009 budget. Seconded by Council Member Sanders and **passed** as follows:

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

2008118. Discuss and consider Ordinance No. 2008118, an ordinance adopting the budget for fiscal year October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 for the City of Forest Hill.

Finance Director, Clifford Blackwell explained that the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 has a decrease in revenues of 0.57% mainly due to a decrease in miscellaneous revenues projections. The overall proposed budget has an increase in expenditures of 1.81%.

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2008118 adopting the budget for fiscal year October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. Seconded by Council Member Joubert and **passed** as follows:

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

2008119. Discuss and consider Ordinance No. 2008119, an ordinance adopting a tax rate for the City of Forest Hill for the 2008-2009 fiscal year; providing for publication and effective date.

Finance Director, Clifford Blackwell, explained that the tax rate of \$.095 is comprised of Maintenance and Operations (M&O) rate \$0.7966081; and Interest & Sinking (I&S) - Debt rate of \$0.153392 and made the recommendation that the City Council adopt the tax rate of \$0.95 per \$100 taxable value.

Council Member Joubert made the motion "I, Gerald Joubert, move that property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.95 per \$100 assessed taxable valuation as stated per Ordinance No. 2008119." Motion was seconded by Mayor Gosey and **passed** as follows:

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

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, council adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Debra W. Maness, City Secretary

James Gosey, Mayor