

HUMBLE CITY COUNCIL**MINUTES****SPECIAL MEETING****SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 – 9:00 A.M.****HELD AT CITY HALL, 114 WEST HIGGINS, HUMBLE, TEXAS**

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF HARRIS §

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Merle Aaron, Presiding
 Mayor Pro Tem Norman Funderburk
 Council Member Allan Steagall
 Council Member Ray Calfee
 Council Member Andy Curry
 Council Member David Pierce
 City Manager Darrell Boeske
 City Secretary Jason Stuebe

STAFF PRESENT:

Assistant City Manager Aimee Phillips
 Police Chief Delbert Dawes
 Court Administrator Sandra Elliott
 Parks Director Jeremy Mittag
 Capt. Ken Theis
 Asst. Fire Chief Mike Legoudes
 Asst. Fire Chief Al Taska
 Civic Center Operations Manager Jacob Schultz

VISITORS PRESENT:

Donnie McMannes
 Arliss Bentley
 Jennifer Summer
 Chris Shelton
 Ross Adkins

Mayor Aaron called the special meeting of the Humble City Council to order with a quorum present at 9:00 A.M.

1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Pro Tem Funderburk offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE 2016 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF HUMBLE, TEXAS. A TAX RATE OF \$0.21 PER \$100 VALUATION HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HUMBLE, TEXAS.

THIS RATE EXCEEDS THE LOWER OF THE EFFECTIVE OR ROLLBACK TAX RATE, AND STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS BE HELD BY THE GOVERNING BODY BEFORE ADOPTING THE PROPOSED TAX RATE. ALL CITIZENS ARE URGED TO ATTEND AND EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE.

Mayor Aaron opened the public hearing at 9:01 A.M.

Mr. Ross Adkins asked why there was a discrepancy between the \$0.20 tax rate contained in the proposed budget and the \$0.21 tax rate that was being considered. Staff responded that the numbers changed due to budgetary needs and the final certified tax roles that were received after the proposed budget was submitted. Mr. Adkins further stated he did not see the need for an extra cent to be added to the tax rate as it appeared there was always a surplus at the end of the year. Ms. Phillips stated that a portion of the surplus was the result of Metro monies received and that they can only be used for very specific purposes such as transportation and mobility infrastructure and not for general maintenance and operations. Mr. Adkins asked how long the agreement with Metro lasts; staff responded that the current agreement is in place through 2025 but that it is hoped to continue or become statutorily permanent. Mr. Boeske stated that despite our best hopes for the Metro contract to continue, the city must plan for contingencies in the event it is revoked as if those funds were not received back from Metro, the city would likely need to lay off 25-30% of its employees or match that with a reduction in services or some combination of both.

Ms. Arliss Bentley asked if residents could anticipate an increase every year through 2025. Mr. Boeske stated that the city is going to have to give a strong look at our tax rate relative to what other revenues are for any given year. Mr. Boeske added that the city is hopeful for an increase in sales tax revenue as more retail comes online but that so far it has been flat. Mayor Aaron stated that the property tax is the only stable revenue source the city has and on top of that the city is handed down numerous unfunded mandates such as the necessity to buy surface water from the City of Houston – an amount which he noted is expected to triple over the next decade.

Mayor Aaron stated that the city does everything it can to keep the tax rate and budget low, however, a lot of monies in the budget have strings attached to them and can only be spent on very specific purposes.

Mayor Aaron thanked everyone for their questions and comments and closed the public hearing at 9:30 a.m.

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 CITY OF HUMBLE BUDGET. THIS BUDGET IS ESTIMATED TO RAISE MORE REVENUE FROM PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY AN AMOUNT OF \$233,380, WHICH IS A 6.9% INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR'S BUDGET. THE ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE ROLL THIS YEAR IS \$44,413.**

City Manager Boeske stated that four items had changed in the budget since the original proposed budget was presented. These changes included adding additional funds to the Downtown Improvement Program, providing funding to purchase an acre tract for the planned elevated water storage tank, providing funding to purchase an acre tract for the future water plant and interconnect site and reducing the amount allocated for the installation of COBAN radios and other equipment in police traffic units.

Ms. Arliss Bentley asked what the point of having the public hearing on the budget immediately prior to adopting the budget. Mayor Aaron informed her that because the budget had not been voted on changes were still able to be considered and that the Council would consider any input she may have. City Manager Boeske stated that the Council held a workshop on the budget on August 8th and that it was an open meeting.

Ms. Bentley inquired as to the total revenues of the Red Light Camera Program. Ms. Phillips stated that the estimated revenue was \$2 million dollars but that the hope is that revenue declines overtime as violations decrease, which it has generally done since its implementation. Ms. Bentley then asked what those funds were utilized for. Ms. Phillips stated that the funds are restricted only for the operation of the cameras themselves, traffic safety programs, intersection improvements, and the trauma fund.

Ms. Bentley then stated that the Beautification Committee is planning on a city-wide cleanup in April of 2017 and asked that the city budget for dumpsters to be located for debris removal. City Manager Boeske stated that would be something the city would be happy to coordinate as well as look into running a household hazardous waste drop-off event concurrently.

Ms. Bentley stated that the city's code enforcement officer was working very hard and suggested that additional help may be needed as constant vigilance was necessary to ensure that the codes are enforced. Mayor Aaron stated that he was open to considering such and that staff would need to look into what work load the code enforcement officer currently has and possibly better utilize some of the city employees that are already monitoring and on the look-out for code violations. Mr. Boeske added that money has been allocated for a part-time code enforcement officer.

Mr. Ross Adkins noted the addition of a new Parks Department Office and asked where it would be located. Mr. Boeske stated the new office would be located between the Octavia Fields Library and the Senior Activity Center.

Mr. Adkins asked what would happen to the Senior Activity Center as the new one was being constructed. Mr. Boeske stated that it would be torn down and a new one erected at the same location. Mayor Aaron said that some of the programming would continue likely at the Civic Center. Mr. Adkins also asked why there was a line-item for new air conditioning units at the Senior Activity Center if it was going to be torn down. Staff indicated that it was an either-or type project.

Ms. Bentley asked if the Senior Activity Center was due to additional activities or if the facility was in need of repair. Mr. Boeske stated that the current building slab was not sealed correctly and as such the hydrocarbons beneath the surface have been weeping up into the building and deteriorating the slab making the building unsafe.

Mr. Adkins asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the Old Humble Cemetery. Mayor Aaron stated that technically speaking, nobody owned the cemetery. However the City's Parks Department has been mowing and that the City is currently planning to do some fill work and reset some of the grave markers; all of this despite the City not actually owning the cemetery.

Mr. Adkins asked if the city maintained a 5-10 year plan to help plan for future budgets. Mr. Boeske stated that a plan is something that Mayor Aaron has been asking for and that staff is working on one for the future.

Mr. Adkins expressed his appreciation to the staff and stated that he felt the city was well run.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 9:53 a.m.

4. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 16-786 ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF HUMBLE, TEXAS; APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS ALLOCATED FOR THE PURPOSE THERIN NAMED; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Aaron thanked Mr. Boeske and Ms. Phillips as well as all of the department heads for their work and efforts in putting the budget together.

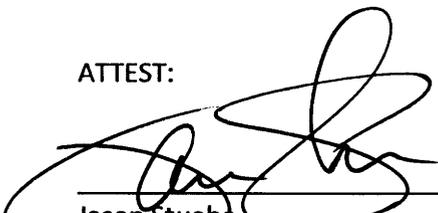
Upon a motion by Council Member Funderburk, the City Council voted six (6) for and none(0) opposed, to adopt Ordinance 16-786 establishing the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget for the City of Humble.

There being no further business before the City Council, Mayor Aaron adjourned the Special Meeting of the City Council at 9:54 A.M. on Monday, September 12, 2016



Merle Aaron
Mayor

ATTEST:



Jason Stuebe
City Secretary

