

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
RIVER OAKS CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 29, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR DARREN HOUK
MAYOR PRO TEM JOHN CLARIDGE
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVE HOLLAND
COUNCIL MEMBER BRENT FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH ANN TURNER
COUNCIL MEMBER YOLIE RODRIGUEZ

STAFF PRESENT:

CITY MANAGER MARVIN GREGORY
CITY SECRETARY PAULA LUCK
INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR JEREMY BELL
POLICE CHIEF CHUCK STEWART
EMERGENCY MGT JAMES MYRICK
FIRE CHIEF RUSSELL SHELLEY

ABSENT:

NONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mayor Houk called the Special Meeting of the River Oaks City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at the River Oaks City Hall, 4900 River Oaks Blvd., River Oaks, Texas 76114.

2. INVOCATION

CM Rodriguez delivered the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE TEXAS FLAG

CM Rodriguez led the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States and the Texas Flags.

4. READING OF PROCLAMATION(S) AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS BY MAYOR.

NONE

5. PUBLIC TESTIMONY: CITIZENS TO SPEAK ON ANY TOPIC OR ANY AGENDA ITEM BEFORE AN DURING THE MEETING BY RAISING YOUR HAND TO BE RECOGNIZED; HOWEVER, UNLESS THE ITEM IS SPECIFICALLY NOTED ON THIS AGENDA, THE CITY COUNCIL IS REQUIRED UNDER THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO LIMIT ITS RESPONSE WITH A STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC FACTUAL INFORMATION, RECITING THE CITY'S EXISTING POLICY ON THAT ISSUE, OR DIRECTING THE PERSON MAKING THE INQUIRY TO VISIT WITH CITY STAFF ABOUT THAT ISSUE; AND NO COUNCIL DELIBERATION IS PERMITTED FOR TOPICS NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED ON THIS AGENDA.

Daniel Bennett-been before the council before about Tarrant Appraisal District issues. Today the Commissioners Court voted 4 to 0 no confidence of the Chief Appraiser. They have a recording of the IT Director at TAD of a statement he had made. Daniel gave information to the Mayor to send out to the council. Nominations are up again, and Jeff Law is supposed to be sending out letters.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA** ALL ITEMS UNDER THIS SECTION ARE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL FOR THE "CONSENT AGENDA". THESE ITEMS ARE OF A ROUTINE NATURE AND REQUIRE ONLY BRIEF DELIBERATION BY COUNCIL. **COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REMOVE ANY ITEM ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR FURTHER DELIBERATION**

A. APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 2023 REGULAR CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Claridge moved, seconded by CM Rodriguez to approve the Consent Agenda Item #A. All voted "Aye".

7. DISCUSSION OR ACTION TAKEN ON ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE DELIBERATION.

NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS/ACTION FROM PUBLIC HEARINGS:

8. PUBLIC HEARING: IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON THE PROPOSED 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE CITY OF RIVER OAKS THAT WILL RAISE MORE TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES IN THE GENERAL FUND THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY \$106,646 DOLLARS OR 3.6905% AND OF THAT AMOUNT \$13,705.56 IS TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR.

At 6:09 p.m., Mayor Houk opened the Public Hearing.

This budget is based on \$0.677621/\$100 property tax rate. This will raise the property tax amount by \$106,646 or 3.6905% and of that amount, \$13,705.56 is tax revenue to be raised from new property that was added to the tax roll this year.

General Fund: \$7,866,185 in revenues; \$7,839,826 in expenditures; \$26,359 surplus. Went over a few items in the revenues and expenditures.

Water Sewer: \$4,742,629 in revenues; \$4,741,685 in expenditures; \$944 surplus. This includes a sewer rate increased passed to us from the City of Fort Worth.

Economic Development: \$331,000 in revenues; \$312,906 in expenditures; \$18,084 surplus.

Crime Control: \$362,700 in revenues; \$381,947 in expenditures; \$19,247 deficit.

Storm Water: \$312,930 in revenues; \$320,264 in expenditures; \$7,334 deficit. This includes a drainage fee increase.

TIRZ: \$142,270 in revenues; \$31,716 in expenditures; \$110,554 surplus.

Animal Shelter 501c3: \$4,550 in revenues; \$1,200 in expenditures; \$3,350 surplus.

Community Center 501c3: \$6,000 in revenues; \$6,000 in expenditures.

Larry Price (808 Lynda): hear a lot of complaints about tax increases. CM Gregory-most of the tax increase is current homes value increases. The rate is going down, but if your value goes up, the taxes will go up. The city has no control over the values. If Fort Worth's sewer rate goes down, we will lower the resident's costs. This is for budgeting only. There will be an ordinance brought to council later for sewer rates. We use December, January, and February usage to calculate a residents sewer rate for the year. If there was no tax rate increase, we would be in the red about \$100,000 in the General Fund.

Citizen-asked which department got the most increase from last year. CM Gregory-the Police Department from \$2,353,131 to \$2,598,359 which is a \$245,228 increase (appx 10%). Inflation has hit everyone. The city is eating about 4-5% of inflation on the tax rate.

Citizen-asked was the budget the cause of the library to close. A lot of citizens were upset over the library closure. The users were down, and the library was going to loose their accreditation.

Ron Sweeney-asked where did the library funding go to. In 2017 was the last year we had a volunteer Fire Department. FC Shelley explained how the process worked. We needed a mutual aid agreement with Fort Worth to help. The library budget went into the General Fund to help fund the full-time Fire Department.

Ron Sweeney-complained about the streets and drainage and doesn't understand where all the city's money is going to. Drainage ways in Fort Worth are not maintained and is affecting our streets. Complained about not being notified of meetings in time since he doesn't have Facebook. Agendas are posted everywhere, not just Facebook.

Jennifer Mearns (813 Lynda)-wants to understand how a water bill is calculated, which CM Gregory explained how.

PWD Bell went over which streets we are planning on replacing soon.

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Houk closed the Public Hearing.

9. ACTION FROM PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1385-2023 ADOPTING THE RIVER OAKS OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024.

CM Holland moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Claridge to approve Ordinance #1385-2023. All voted "Aye".

10. PUBLIC HEARING: IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CITIZEN COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED AD VALOREM 2023 PROPERTY TAX RATE IN THE CITY OF RIVER OAKS AT A RATE OF \$0.677621 PER \$100 OF PROPERTY VALUE WHICH IS EFFECTIVELY A TOTAL TAX RATE DECREASE OF \$0.076547/\$100 OF VALUE OR 11.2964% FROM THE 2022 TAX RATE OF \$0.754168 PER \$100 OF PROPERTY VALUE. THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE.

At 7:38 p.m., Mayor Houk opened the Public Hearing.

The No New Revenue Tax Rate is the tax rate for 2023 that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue from the same properties in both the preceding tax year and the current tax year. The Voter-Approval Tax Rate is the highest tax rate that River Oaks may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate. Debt Rate is for payment of bonds that are secured by ad valorem taxes unless it can be paid by other resources including 50% of the Series 2017 A (sewer improvements), proposed interest for the Tax Note for Water Plant Improvements, and Certificate of Obligation bond issued and delivered in the aggregate principal for paying all or a portion of the issuer's contractual obligations incurred.

If the tax rate decreases and your property value increases, you will pay more in taxes. If the rate decreases and the value stays the same, will pay less in property taxes.

At 7:44 p.m., Mayor Houk closed the Public Hearing.

11. ACTION FROM PUBLIC HEARING: THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL ANNOUNCE AT THE PUBLIC HEARING THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE MEETING AT WHICH IT WILL VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE.

No action taken. Tax Rate adoption will be September 5th at 6:00 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE:

12. COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mayor Pro Tem Claridge-there are three Council Members that drive Yale and everyone uses Yale as a cut thru. Previous council put off the road repairs because of water, sewer, and gas line repairs. Fought to keep a volunteer Fire Department but we are now with a mutual aid agreement with Fort Worth who has so much more equipment than we do.

CM Rodriguez-wish the council room looked like this every meeting where people attend.

CM Turner-thanked Fire Chief, Police Chief, and CM Gregory working hard. The quality of life is so much better in River Oaks than anywhere else.

CM Forester-thanked all for coming. After budgets, wants to have a meetings with the other boards.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

13. CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE: THE COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION(S) FROM TIME TO TIME ON ANY POSTED AGENDA ITEM TO RECEIVE ADVICE FROM ITS ATTORNEY AS PERMITTED BY LAW DURING THIS MEETING. THE COUNCIL MAY CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

- a. Section 551.071 Pending or contemplated litigation or to seek advice from attorney.
- b. Section 551.072 deliberation regarding real property; a government body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if

deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.

- c. Section 551.074 Personnel matters – To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment of duties, discipline or dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an Officer or Employee.
- d. Section 551.076 Deliberation regarding security devices.

NONE

RECONVENE:

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

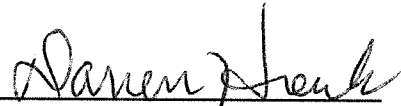
NONE

ADJOURN:

15. ADJOURN

At 7:57 p.m., Mayor Houk adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:


Darren Houk, Mayor

ATTEST:


Paula Luck, City Secretary