

MINUTES
Special meeting of the City Council
Municipal Building
West 3rd Street and Texas Boulevard
Texarkana, Texas
Wednesday, September 16, 2009
5:30 p.m.

Call to Order by Mayor Mayo, Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum:

The following Councilmembers were present:

Derrick McGary	Councilmember, Ward 1
Willie Ray	Councilmember, Ward 2
Tina Veal-Gooch	Councilmember, Ward 3
Bob Bruggeman	Councilmember, Ward 4
Scott Norton	Councilmember, Ward 5 - Absent
Robin Court	Councilmember, Ward 6

(By Video Conference) Located at:

University of Texas; George Sanchez Building, Room 324, 1912 Speedway, Austin, Texas, 78721

Also present were: Mayor Stephen Mayo, Charlie Bassett, CFO, Shirley Jaster, Craig Lindholm, Pam Burns, Vicki Melde, Jerry Sparks, and Josh McGillberry.

Invocation The Invocation was given by Councilman Derrick McGary.

Pledge to the Flag: The Pledge was led by Councilman Derrick McGary.

1st Public Hearing on Tax Rate:

Open Forum

Mayor Mayo declared the public hearing open at 5:40 p.m. for discussion explaining the rate was no more than \$.055 and there were options between now and the actual adoption of the rate.

Mr. Louis Senneck addressed the Council first, asking if written options had been given to the public. He asked who was sitting in Dr. Sullivan's seat and Charlie Bassett identified himself as the Chief Financial Officer. He voiced his concerns with the economy and the property values at this time and feels it is bad timing for the tax increase.

Mr. John Ryden, owner of Cedar Ridge Apartments on Summerhill Road spoke next. He is concerned that he will have to raise the rent on his apartments due to the tax increase and the increased property assessments. He felt the City should have a plan in place for replacing vehicles in fleet without raising taxes.

Mr. Benjamin Dennis, concerned citizen, spoke against the tax increase indicating we all were having to tighten our belt. He wanted to know if all other avenues had been research such as

stimulus money. He thought the City should postpone the tax increase until the economy makes a change.

Mr. Steve Durkey spoke against the tax increase citing his property values had increased and he had not made any improvements. He said 23% of his social security would be used just for property taxes. He also had a concern if the tax rate was going to TWU. He thought he was getting inaccurate bills and Mayor Mayo told him it was not going to TWU and that he should contact Kerry Meredith with his complaint about TWU.

Mayor Mayo declared the public hearing closed at 5:51 p.m. He announced that the 2nd public hearing on the tax rate would be September 21st at noon and the vote on the tax increase would be September 28th at 6 p.m. and the regular Council Meeting. He urged the citizens to talk with their Council Members.

Adjournment:

The Mayor indicated they would be going into closed session pursuant to 551.074 at 5:56 p.m.

Closed Session:

The City Council convened in closed session pursuant to one or more of the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code):

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| § 551.071 | Private consultation with the City Attorney |
| § 551.072 | Discussing or deliberating purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property |
| § 551.073 | Discussing or deliberating negotiated contract for prospective gift or donation |
| § 551.074 | Discussing or deliberating appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee |
| § 551.076 | Discussing or deliberating the deployment or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices |
| § 551.084 | Investigation; exclusion of witness from a hearing during examination of another witness |
| § 551.087 | Discussing economic development negotiations or offer of financial or other incentives to business prospects |

STEPHEN A. MAYO, MAYOR

PAMELA N. BURNS, ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY