



CITY OF ROWLETT CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Our Vision: A well-planned lakeside community of quality neighborhoods, distinctive amenities, diverse employment, and cultural charm. Rowlett: THE place to live, work and play.

Monday, August 10, 2020

5:30 P.M.

Municipal Building

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda item herein.

The City of Rowlett reserves the right to reconvene, recess or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

Due to the public health emergency and to conform with the social distancing requirements, the City Council meetings will be held via teleconferencing. The public can view live on the City's website (<https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/397/Streaming-Video>) or via RTN16.

Present (remotely): Mayor Dana-Bashian, Mayor Pro Tem Grubisich, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Bell, Councilmember Margolis, Councilmember Sherrill, Councilmember Laning and Councilmember Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dana-Bashian called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION (5:30 P.M.)* Times listed are approximate.

2A. Consider action to approve a resolution to call for public hearings on the FY2021 tax rate and provide direction to staff as to what tax rate to include in the Proposed Tax Rate public notice.

Wendy Badgett, Director of Financial Services, presented this item. Discussion was had concerning the no-new-revenue rate, and Senate Bill 2 disaster provision.

Staff stated the Dallas Central Appraisal District submitted a certified "estimate" because of the record number of protests. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, the number of hearings that can be held daily have been limited. As a result, there was about \$893 million in tax value under protest at the time the appraisal districts certified their estimate in late July. Council opted into the Senate Bill 2 disaster provision by approving a resolution on June 16, 2020 directing the City's Finance Director to calculate the voter-approval rate of the City in a manner provided for a special taxing unit (at a voter-approval rate of 8% instead of 3.5%) due to the declarations of disaster provided by the Governor of Texas and the President of the United States. The passing of this resolution requires the official tax rate to be calculated in this manner, however, it does not require Council to adopt this rate. The purpose of the calculation is to provide a "ceiling" – or

the maximum rate – the Council can adopt without being subject to an automatic election at the November uniform election date.

Due to publication requirements, the City Council is publishing the 0.787935 rate; however, in the FY2021 Proposed Budget, the City Manager is proposing to reduce the tax rate by approximately a penny from the current rate of \$0.757173 to \$0.747343. City staff proposes that public hearings be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 and Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sherrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Bell, to approve a total proposed rate of 0.787935, which includes a Debt I&S rate of 0.233532 and the Operations (O&M) rate of 0.554403 as the published rates. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of those members present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Sherrill to approve the resolution to call the public hearings: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 and Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of those members present. The two motions were approved as RES-098-20.

3. WORK SESSION

3A. Discuss Departmental Budget Presentations (180 minutes)

Neil Howard, Fire Chief, reviewed the department's accomplishments and challenges. Discussion was had regarding personnel and equipment needs, departmental strategies and training, grant opportunities, response times, and various programs.

Michael Godfrey, Police Chief, reviewed the department's accomplishments and challenges. Discussion was had regarding personnel, current facility needs, complying with NFPA 1710, response times, long-term strategies, the Crisis Assistance Program, and the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division.

Gary Enna, Director of Public Works, reviewed the department's accomplishments and challenges. Discussion was had regarding personnel, staff development, water storage tanks, hydrant flushing and the Facilities Department's COVID-19 response to each City department.

Jim Grabenhorst, Director of Economic Development, reviewed the department's accomplishments and challenges. Spoke concerning personnel, approaches for COVID-19 business assistance and recovery, North Shore strategy, and keeping awareness of Rowlett and available sites for new projects in the public.

Munal Mauladad, Director of Community Development, reviewed the department's accomplishments and challenges. Spoke regarding department efficacy, personnel, updating the Rowlett Development Code, and equipment needs.

4. TAKE ANY NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

There was no action taken.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.