

CITY OF LAKE WORTH
Minutes for City Council
Public Hearing/Special Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2009
3801 Adam Grubb • Lake Worth, Texas
6:30 P.M. – Council Chambers

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Walter Bowen called the Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clint Narmore gave invocation and attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call.

Council members present were Mayor Walter Bowen, Curtis McKay, Myrt Fowlkes, Pat O. Hill, Geoffrey White and Clint Narmore. Perry Lunsford and Dona Stuard were absent.

Staff present was Brett McGuire, City Manager; Ken West, Assistant City Manager; Linda Rhodes, City Secretary; and Debbie Whitley, Director of Finance.

Mayor Walter Bowen opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. and closed it at 6:56 p.m.

4. Public Hearing Item:

- a. Hold first of two required Public Hearings for the Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2009/2010 and announce meeting date of Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at 3801 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas to vote on the tax rate.

Mayor Bowen announced the meeting date to vote on the tax rate will be on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at 3801 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas. The floor was open for any comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate.

Jan Horney, 7717 Pawnee Trail, asked where the budget shortfall was. Brett McGuire explained there were decreases in the following revenues: property taxes, franchise fees, sales tax, court revenues, permits/license, and miscellaneous categories. Overall, it is due to the economy. Mayor Bowen stated that this is not something Council desires to do; staff and Council have worked very diligently on the budget. The average property tax will increase anywhere from about \$20 to \$60 per property. Cities are struggling just like its citizens; one area they are cutting is by having their employees take furlough days. The City of Lake Worth employees will be taking three furlough days. Brett explained that 32 cents of the tax is the debt service portion, which is a legal liability. The rest, about 11 cents, is for the general maintenance and operation of the City.

Mr. Baumgardner asked about funds to move the Foster House and also how many hires did the City have in the last 12 months. Mayor Bowen explained that EDC funds paid for the house project, which is a restricted fund. Brett McGuire stated only vacant positions have been filled in the last 12 months; there were no "new" positions. Recently, five police employees were hired in, filling vacant, existing positions. Mr. Baumgardner wanted to know how many police officers and public works employees there were. Brett explained there are about 28 sworn police officers, about 36 total police department employees, and 17 public works employees (not counting the water/sewer department since that is out of the water/sewer fund).

There were no other persons wishing to speak at the public hearing.

5. City Manager Reports:

- a. Announce second Public Hearing date for Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2009/2010 to be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.
- b. Announce date for Public Hearing and Action to be taken on the Proposed Budget for FY 2009/2010 to be on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Brett McGuire announced the two meeting dates.

6. Adjourn.

There being no further business, Mayor Walter Bowen closed the Council meeting at 6:58 p.m.

APPROVED:


Walter Bowen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Linda Rhodes, TRMC/CMC
City Secretary