



**MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF THE
BENBROOK CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Benbrook City Council was held on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 7:30 p. m. in the Council Chambers at 911 Winscott Road with the following Council members present:

Jerry Dittrich
Rickie Allison
Dan Tully
Larry Stowe
Ron Sauma
James Schull
Keith Bailey
Mark Washburn

Also Present:

Andy Wayman, City Manager
Joanna King, City Secretary
Cathy Morris, Administrative Analyst
David Ragsdale, Comptroller

Others Present:

Dorcas Neuman, Benbrook News
Valerie Stowe
Melanie Washburn
Alan-Michael Washburn
Marin Washburn
Jack Burns
Jan Burns
David Burns
Karsten Schierloh
Frank Rinaldo
Ed Gallagher, Planner
Tommy Davis, Fire Chief
Jackie Hartman, Fire Lieutenant
James Mills, Police Chief
David Babcock, Assistant Police Chief
Jason Montgomery, Police Detective
Wes Cooper, Crime Prevention Officer
Bill Smith

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p. m. by Mayor Dittrich.

**II. INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation given by Councilmember Larry Stowe.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. MINUTES

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held May 1, 2008

Motion by Mr. Sauma, seconded by Mr. Stowe to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 1, 2008.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Sauma

Abstain: Mr. Bailey

Motion carries 6-1.

IV. OATH OF OFFICE

1. Oath of Officer to Newly Elected Members of City Council

Joanna King, City Secretary administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember James Schull, Place 2; Councilmember Rickie Allison, Place 4; and, Councilmember Mark Washburn, Place 6.

V. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

- 1. Comments from Outgoing Councilmember Larry Stowe**
- 2. Mayor and Councilmember Comments to Outgoing Councilmember Larry Stowe**

Outgoing Councilmember Larry Stowe expressed appreciation to the Mayor, Members of City Council, City Manager and members of staff for service rendered during his term. Mr. Stowe and wife, Valerie presented the Benbrook Police Officer's Association and Benbrook Firefighters Association with a check expressing their appreciation for their service on and off duty.

Mayor Dittrich and members of City Council expressed their appreciation to Mr. Stowe for his service representing the citizens of Benbrook.

VI. SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Motion by Mr. Sauma, seconded by Mr. Bailey to nominate Councilmember Rickie Allison as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

VII. SELECTION OF NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

Motion by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Allison for Councilmember Ron Sauma to continue as the voting representative for the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

VII. PRESENTATION BY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

IX. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER

G-1776 Financial Report for month ending April 2008

David Ragsdale gave the following report: General Fund revenues for the month of April were \$372,554. At April 30, total revenues were \$10,144,801.

General Fund expenditures were \$1,242,963. Total expenditures were \$7,129,298 of the budgeted amount. Revenues exceed expenditures by \$3,015,503.

EDC revenues were \$60,133 and expenditures were \$74,399.

At April 30, the City had \$14,353,463 invested at varying interest rates.

Motion by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Schull to accept the financial report for the period ending April 30, 2008 as presented.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

G-1777 Ordinance amending existing Gas Franchise between the City of Benbrook and Atmos Energy Corporation

David Ragsdale gave the following report: The Atmos Gas Ordinance approved by City Council on January 17, 2008, included a “most favored nations” clause. The clause requires Atmos Gas to extend any favorable benefits negotiated with another City to all Atmos Cities Steering Committee members. As a result of Benbrook’s “most favored nations” clause, Atmos is required to offer the option of increasing the Benbrook franchise fee by 1% (from 4% to 5%).

Based on current revenues, an increase of 1% would bring in an additional \$15,021 per year for the City and increase residential bills by 50 to 60 cents per month. The City is not required to adopt the increased fee.

Motion by Mr. Allison, seconded by Mr. Washburn to decline the additional 1% increase to the current franchise fee at this time.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

G-1778 Resolution approving continued membership in Oncor Steering Committee

David Ragsdale gave the following report: The City is a member of the Oncor Steering Committee (OSC). The OSC is the City’s primary regulatory defense against electric rate increases filed with the Public Utilities Commission. The work of the OSC has resulted in over \$200,000 in refunds to the City of Benbrook over the past four years. Other OSC activities have resulted in improved customer service response to electric issues, more timely maintenance activities and a regular dialogue between the member cities and Oncor.

Historically, OSC is funded with periodic assessments based on population estimates. Due to continued regulatory activities, the OSC has determined that an annual assessment of member cities is required to maintain financial viability. The annual assessment for Benbrook is \$2,285, based on 10 cents per capita.

Motion by Mr. Sauma, seconded by Mr. Allison to approve the payment of \$2,285 to the Oncor Steering Committee and approve the accompanying resolution.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution 2008-03 being **“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF CITIES SERVED BY ONCOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF 10 CENTS PER CAPITA TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO FUND REGULATORY AND RELATED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY.”**

G-1779 Authorize Continue Participation with Fort Worth Transportation Authority for Tarrant County Transportation Service

Cathy Morris gave the following report: In March 2005, City Council authorized initial participation in the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the “T”), Tarrant County Transportation Services (TCTS) program.

Benbrook’s current year agreement with the “T” expires on May 31, 2008 and must be renewed to participate in the program for another year.

The TCTS program provides transit service to residents age 55 or older, or who have a disability, at a subsidized fare of \$2.50 for one-way trips. The City’s cost for program participation is \$7,529 and funds are budgeted annually for this expense.

Ridership averages 40 one-way trips per month, reflecting an increase of approximately 10 trips per month from the previous years of participation.

Staff is recommending that City Council approved continued participation in the Tarrant County Transportation Services Program for Elderly and Disabled residents at a cost of \$7,529.

Motion by Mr. Schull, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve staff recommendation as presented.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

X. INFORMAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

APPROVED:

Jerry B. Dittrich, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joanna King, City Secretary