



**MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF THE
BENBROOK CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Benbrook City Council was held on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at 7:30 p. m. in the Council Chambers at 911 Winscott Road with the following Council members present:

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

Also Present:

Andy Wayman, City Manager
Donna Savage, Assistant to City Secretary
Sherri Newhouse, Budget Director
Cathy Morris, Administrative Analyst

Others Present:

Ed Gallagher
Ron Rainey
Pat Taber
Pat Dunkin
Woody Johns
Robert Clark
Bill Smith
Jess Jordan
9 Other Citizens

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

**II. INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation given by Woody Johns with Wyatt Drive Baptist Church
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting held August 7, 2008

Motion by Mr. Allison, seconded by Mr. Sauma to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held August 7, 2008.

Vote on the Motion:

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

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

IV. CITIZEN PRESENTATION

1. Pat Dunkin - Timber Creek Neighborhood Association – Timber Creek Signs

Ms. Pat Dunkin made presentation on behalf of the homeowners in Timber Creek, they are asking for the possibility of the City replacing the signs at the front of the Timber Creek neighborhood. The signs were destroyed years ago by the City when the street was changed to the current intersection.

Motion by Mr. Allison, seconded by Mr. Schull to replace the signs at the front entrance of Timber Creek at the City's expense.

Vote on the Motion:

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

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

2. Robert Clark – Method to provide information to citizens on Benbrook Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Robert Clark made the presentation requesting more information about the projects and the budget from the EDC for the citizens. He wanted to know if it is possible to have more television coverage about their meetings on the cable channel the same as the City Council meetings.

Mayor Dittrich requested that Mr. Clark visit with Mr. Ron Rainey, Director of the Economic Development Corporation to address his issues.

V. REPORTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

G-1795 Financial Report for month ending July 31, 2008

Andy gave the following report: Revenues for the month of July totaled \$684,193. The major source of revenue came from Sales & Other Taxes (\$128,036), Franchise Taxes (\$119,974), and Property Taxes (\$214,196). Through July, total collections were \$11,943,003 or 94.3% of the amount budgeted. Total revenue collection is now \$823,505 ahead of the prior year.

July expenditures totaled \$783,164. Through July, total expenditures were \$10,104,018 or 81.11% of the original budget. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$1,838,986.

EDC July revenues were \$73,771 with most of this amount coming from Sales Tax. Expenditures were \$54,294. Through the end of July, expenditures exceed revenues by \$447,048.

Investments were \$13,135,469 at July 31, 2008.

Motion Mr. Sauma seconded by Mr. Washburn to accept the monthly financial report for the month of July, 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.

VI. OTHER MATTERS OF BUSINESS

1. Public hearing on 2008 Property Tax Rate
2. Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Ms. Newhouse gave the following report. The 2008-09 Proposed Budget is based on General Fund revenues in the amount of \$13,430,009 and Debt Service revenues in the amount of \$984,573; total Operating Fund revenues are \$14,414,582. General Fund expenditures total \$13,400,311, Debt Service Fund expenditures total \$1,039,214, and Operating Funds total \$14,439,525. The variance between revenues and expenditures for the General Fund is \$29,698. The variance between revenues and expenditures for the Debt Service Fund is a negative \$54,641. The net variance between revenues and expenditures for the Operating Funds is a negative \$24,943. The projected ending balance for the General Fund is \$6,168,670; the projected ending balance for the Debt Service Fund is \$786,686; the projected ending balance for the Operating Funds is \$6,955,356.

The 2008-09 proposed budget is based on a property tax rate of \$0.6775 per \$100 valuation. The General Fund property tax rate is \$0.60810 and the Debt Service Fund property tax rate is \$0.06940. The General Fund property tax rate proposed for 2008-09 of \$0.60810 is \$0.00903 more than the current property tax rate of \$0.59907. The Debt Service property tax rate of \$0.06940 is a decrease of \$0.02903 from the current tax rate of \$0.09843. The total proposed tax rate of \$0.6775 is \$0.0200 less than the current property tax rate of \$0.6975.

The 2008-09 Proposed Budget is predicated upon continuation of current services; no program reductions, no employee layoffs, and no service changes are reflected in the Proposed Budget. The Proposed Budget includes: step increases for eligible employees, an up-to fifteen percent increase for employee insurance costs, replacement of five Police vehicles (funding for four from the General Funds and funding for one from the Police Narcotics Fund), continuation of current fee structures, and City Staff organizational changes (Engineering Department under Public Service Director and Code Compliance assigned to Administrative Analyst).

Highlights of the 2008-09 Proposed Budget include a two cent reduction in the property tax rate from \$0.6975 to \$0.6775 (each one cent of the tax rate equals approximately \$142,134) and a three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for all full-time City employees (each one percent increase costs approximately \$81,796 for a total of \$245,389). The 2008-09 Budget also features the following enhancements and improvements for City services and operations:

- Year Four of Document Imaging Program for City Secretary
- Flu Shots for City Employees
- Improved Conditions for Server Storage
- Telephone System Upgrade
- Replacement of Intoxilyzer for Police Department
- Digital Data Sender (Scanner) for Police C. I. S.
- Promotion of two Fire Lieutenants to Rank of Captain
- Salary Adjustment for ACFSU Members of Fire Department
- Replacement of Ambulance
- Replacement of Truck for Public Works
- Replacement of Wooden Ball Field Light Poles for Parks
- Raw Water Irrigation System for Parks
- Entrance Monument for Highway 377 – North of I 20
- Replacement of City Hall Sign
- Establishment of Fuel Reserve Account
- Funds for Compensation and Classification Study
- Software for Internet Reservations and Payments for City Services
- Mary's Creek Drainage Study (with City of Fort Worth); funded through Stormwater Utility Fund
- Erosion Project at 1425 Timberline Drive – funded through Stormwater Utility Fund
- Five Mobile Video Camera Units for Patrol Cars – funded through Police Narcotics Fund

Following Ms. Newhouse's overview of the 2008-09 Budget and Property Tax Rate, she stated that the City Council would conduct the first of two series of public hearings. The first public hearing would be on the Proposed Budget and the second hearing would be on the property tax rate. She informed the audience that copies of the 2008-09 Proposed Budget were available at the meeting and would be available at City Hall. She advised the audience that citizens had the opportunity to comment on the budget and on the tax rate during the public hearings.

At the next Council meeting on September 4, 2008, the Council will hold the second series of public hearings on the 2008-09 Proposed Budget and on the Property Tax Rate. Notices and copies of the 2008-09 Budget Summary will be published in the *Benbrook News* and on the City's website. Citizens will have the opportunity to comment on the budget and on the tax rate.

At the September 18, 2008 Council meeting, the City Council will adopt the 2008-09 Budget, adopt the 2008-09 Property Tax Rate, and ratify the 2008-09 Property Tax Revenue.

Mayor Dittrich opened the public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 at 8:05 p.m.

No one in the audience spoke to the item.

Mayor Dittrich closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor Dittrich opened the public hearing on the 2008 property tax rate at 8:06 p.m.

No one in the audience spoke to the item.

Mayor Dittrich closed the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

VII. STAFF BRIEFING

1. Briefing on Compassion Based Code Compliance

Cathy Morris gave the following report: Compassion Based Code Compliance is modeled after the "Beautiful Day" program developed in San Jose, California. It offers an alternative for the City to more compassionately resolve code violations of physically or financially incapable citizens. This mobilizes community volunteers/resources to assist qualifying residents in site cleanup repair.

City/Community Partnership
City Resources

- Citizen Identification/Screening
- Connect volunteers with projects

- Insurance coverage
- Waste hauler contacts
- Leverage donations

Community Resources

- Strong Community Resources in Benbrook
- Sponsoring Organization/Compassion Team (s)
- Volunteer Leadership/Skilled Trades
- Event Coordination

Benefits

- Code Compliance estimates that approximately 15% of residents could benefit from assistance
- Helps residents retain dignity and better enjoy their homes and property
- Reduces repeat violations
- Creates enhance community collaboration
- Improves overall community appearance

VIII. INFORMAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Harold Evetts expressing his concerns about why Benbrook wasn't one of the Cities picked as a future site for Wal-Mart or Home Depot.

Bill Smith introduced Jess Jordan as the new president of the South Benbrook Home Owners Association.

Mr. Ron Rainey Director for the EDC replied that they do run articles about EDC budget and meeting updates in the Benbrook News Letter and on Spot Light which is aired on the Benbrook cable channel and in the Benbrook Newspaper.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074. Personnel Matters

City Manager Performance Evaluation Including Salary Determination

Mayor Dittrich recessed the regular meeting at 8:24 p.m. for Executive Session.

Mayor Dittrich reconvened the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Motion Mr. Allison seconded by Mr. Sauma to accept the City Managers Performance Evaluation and set his salary at a 3% increase with an increase to the auto allowance from \$600 per month to \$650 per month.

Vote on the Motion:

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

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jerry B. Dittrich, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joanna King, City Secretary