

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER, 16327 LAKEVIEW, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Russell Hamley
Mayor Pro-Tem, Ernie English
Council Member, Joyce Berube
Council Member, Greg Holden
Council Member, Frances Wubbenhorst
Council Member, Jill Klein

City Manager, Mike Castro
City Attorney, Ken Wall
City Secretary, Lorri Coody

Staff in attendance: Isabel Kato, Director of Finance

FISCAL 2008-2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET ITEMS

- 1. Conduct the second public hearing giving all persons interested the right to appear and to be heard on the proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 4.25 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax rate calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code).**

Mayor Hamley opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. in order to give all interested parties the right to appear and be heard on the proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 4.25 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax rate calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code).

Finance Director, Isabel Kato gave a presentation on the proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 4.25 percent. She presented information on the City's 2008-2009 budget and supporting revenue information from sales tax, property tax, franchise tax and other sources. Ms. Kato explained the operations and maintenance expenses as well as the debt service portion of the budget and the payments associated with same.

Upon closing her presentation, Mayor Hamley called upon the public for comments:

Jeff Kopecky, 16125 De Lozier, Jersey Village – 713-849-2918 – Mr. Kopecky wanted to know why this meeting was being held. He had many questions about notice and when the actual budget was approved. He did not understand why the budget was approved back in September, just two days after the hurricane and he questioned proper notice to the citizens of Jersey Village. Mayor Hamley explained the budgeting process to Mr. Kopecky stating that proper notice was placed into the paper as required by law and that the budget process began back in March and has been on-going for months.

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Mark Maloy, 7803 Hamilton Circle, Jersey Village – 713-461-1430 – Mr. Maloy mentioned that the process followed tonight was not the same process that was followed last year. He stated that the presentation given tonight was not done at the meeting last week and he does not understand why.

Jim Fields, 16413 Saint Helier, Jersey Village – 713-466-0804 – Mr. Fields stated that he would like to see some procedures for how the public is to participate in these public forums. He stated that he has been attending Council Meetings and other City Board Meetings and he believes it would be beneficial to have procedures by which citizens are instructed as to the process. He also stated that he was surprised that the budget was adopted on September 15.

Mark Maloy, 7803 Hamilton Circle, Jersey Village – 713-461-1430 – Mr. Maloy readdressed Council concerning the budget. He had questions concerning the value of the homes in Jersey Village. He stated that these values have gone up and as he understands the issue, Council can either decide to reduce the rate to lower the amount of revenue or leave the rate as is and the revenue generated by that action will result in the 4.25 percent increase. He wants to know how they are going to vote. He is struggling with the concept of the hearings and the purpose. Mayor Hamley explained the process.

Becky Kelley, 15726 Jersey Drive, Jersey Village – Ms. Kelley stated that she does not like to pay taxes but does not mind provided that she gets what she pays for and that is the quality of life that she has chosen. She lives on Jersey Drive and she and her husband have chosen to pay higher taxes to enjoy what Jersey Village has to offer. She wants the Mayor and Council to also choose to keep up the quality of life in the City.

Report from a lady living at 16147 Singapore, Jersey Village – The lady reported that she feels that she is being hit twice, 1st with the increase in the evaluation from the appraisal district and now with the increase in the tax rate. Mayor Hamley explained that the rate is not increasing, rather the 4.25 percent increase mentioned in the notice is the percent in which the total revenue for the City will increase as a result of the tax rate remaining at the rate that it was last year but the appraised value of the homes in Jersey Village has increased.

Derek Irish, 113 Watercross Circle, Jersey Village – 281-955-5151 – Mr. Irish summarized what has been stated thus far in the meeting and said that the 4.25 percent is needed to cover the budget and the rate is staying the same for this reason. However, he was trying to understand the letter he had received and how the process works. City Manager Castro explained the process.

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Charlotte Schwaig, 15618 Shanghai Street, Jersey Village – 832-444-4339 – Ms. Schwaig wanted clarification on what was happening as she did not understand. The Mayor explained that the tax rate has not changed in two years and that the tax rate was remaining the same. Ms. Schwaig stated that with the economy the way it is, residents have had to make many changes and she wants local government to do the same – live within its budget.

❖ Before closing the public hearing at 7:53 p.m. Mayor Hamley stated that:

The City Council will meet on Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center, 16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village, Texas, for the purpose of voting on the proposed tax rate.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered routine in nature by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion and vote. There will not be separate discussion on these items unless requested by a Council Member, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered by separate action.

- 1. Minutes of the September 29, 2008 Special Session City Council Meeting. *Lorri Coody, City Secretary***
- 2. Ordinance No. 2008-33 amending Ordinance No. 2008-30 passed, approved and adopted September 15, 2008.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-33

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2008-30 PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 15, 2008.

- 3. Resolution No. 2008-44 amending Resolution No. 2008-43 passed and approved September 29, 2008.**

This item was pulled from consent by Council Member English. City Manager Castro explained that Council on September 29, 2008 passed and approved Resolution No. 2008-43 authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract relating to the roof repairs at City Hall. The resolution contained an error in that it incorrectly stated the purchasing program utilized by Tremco, Inc. for pricing the proposal as the State of Texas Buy Board, offered through the State of Texas Purchasing and General Services Commission rather than the Cooperative Purchasing Network.

Discussion was had concerning whether the new buy board was Texas Authorized. With no further discussion, Council Member English moved to approve the Resolution as submitted. Council Member Berube seconded the motion. The vote follows:

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Ayes: Council Members Holden, English, Berube, Wubbenhorst and Klein

Nays: None

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-44

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING
RESOLUTION NO. 2008-43 PASSED AND APPROVED SEPTEMBER 29, 2008.

- 4. Ordinance No. 2008-34 allowing a budgetary amendment to the 2008-2009 Utility Fund Budget for repairs to the 400 HP motor at the West Rd Water Plant.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-34

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING THE
UTILITY BUDGET OF SUCH CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING
OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; AND PROVIDING FOR
SEVERABILITY.

- 5. Resolution No. 2008-45 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Layne Christensen for the repair of the 400 HP motor at the West Road Water Plant.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-45

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY
VILLAGE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER
INTO A CONTRACT WITH LAYNE CHRISTENSEN FOR THE REPAIR OF
THE 400 HP MOTOR AT THE WEST ROAD WATER PLANT.

Council Member Holden moved to approve the Consent Agenda items 1 through 5,
excepting item 3. Council Member Wubbenhorst seconded the motion. The vote
follows:

Ayes: Council Members Holden, English, Berube, Wubbenhorst and Klein

Nays: None

The motion carried.

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COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Holden stated that the budget process, setting of the tax rate, and the tax notice process is all very confusing. Nonetheless, the City has never been in a better financial position. We are able to and are making capital improvements, repairing our infrastructure, and we were able to address the emergency concerns brought on by Hurricane Ike. Granted, the City will likely be reimbursed by FEMA for most of the funds expended for these emergency expenses, but it may be months before that reimbursement comes and our City had these funds in reserve to cover the costs which were some 1.3 million dollars.

Council Member Berube thanked all the citizens for coming to the meeting to discuss the budget.

Council Member English agreed with Council Member Holden. We have maintained the financial integrity of the City.

Council Member Klein thanked the citizens for coming and reminded those in attendance that the Charter Review Commission is meeting and will be accepting public comments about amendments to the City's Charter.

Council Member Wubbenhorst agreed with all that had been stated.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hamley did not offer any comments.

ADJOURN

There being no further business on the Agenda the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary