

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a Special Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire Station # 2, 3012 Ranch Road, Sachse, Texas after proper notice. The roll of the duly constituted City Council members was called which members are as follows, to wit:

Mayor Mike Felix
Mayor Pro Tem Bill Adams
Councilwoman Pat McMillan
Councilman Mark Timm
Councilman Charles W. Smith
Councilman Cullen King
Councilman Jared Patterson

and all were present.

Staff present: City Manager Allen Barnes
City Secretary Terry Smith

1. Open Special Meeting:

Mayor Felix opened the special meeting.

2. Conduct the second Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and providing taxpayers an opportunity to express their views on the tax rate: Mayor Felix opened the public hearing.

Charles Ross, 2501 Sandi Lane, thanked the City and employees for forgoing a salary increase in the budget. He appreciates the employees and feels the tax rate is comparable to area cities. Mr. Ross requested the Council to adopt the lower of the tax rates under consideration. He suggested the City grow reserves to finance infrastructure.

Jackie Eichelberger, 7121 Bailey Road, suggesting decreasing newsletters, putting off some maintenance projects, and training be postponed to cut costs.

Jim Becker, 1105 Meadow Lane, suggested using extra money from the bond program to reduce debt. He feels it is not a good idea to finance police cars with bond money, where the debt payments exceed the life of the asset.

Liz Tobler, 3345 Seventh Street, thanked the Council for the time they put in on the budget. She voted for the bonds and asked if the City could minimize the tax increase.

Alva Dymke, 6121 Parkview, stated the City needs to base the budget on actual expenditures and not add to savings. She mentioned a medical emergency on her street that had 1 ambulance, 1 fire truck and 3 police cars on the scene. She voted for the bonds and appreciates all the budget efforts.

Kathy Cobb, 3820 Sixth Street, voted for the bonds. She questioned if the budget was online. The animal shelter can't take more budget cuts. She suggested volunteers to help with the park maintenance. Mrs. Cobb also suggested a no idling policy for vehicles. She feels the City departments need to support each other better, i.e. Police report a street light outage, instead of staff waiting for a citizen to complain.

Robbie Huddleston, 3619 Cedar Creek Lane, feels the City needs some philosophical changes. Since 2005 property evaluations are up 25% and the operations and maintenance rate increased by \$.04. Garland's tax rate is \$.70 and Sachse will be \$.75. He feels the goal should be to bring in business to reduce taxes.

Jerry Foote, 3909 Blossom Drive, works for the City of Dallas, which has had numerous budget and personnel cuts. They also have 5 furlough days. He feels the City needs to keep residents and there are things employees can do to reduce expenses.

Dave Sanford, 3718 Trail Ridge Drive, feels the City is in a predicament because when the City approved the bonds, times were good. Then, the National economy went down. He has been impressed with the efforts the Council has made to cut the budget. He feels the infrastructure needs lots of work and delaying projects will only get more expensive.

Councilman King moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and carried unanimously.

3. Conduct Public Hearing on the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and providing taxpayers an opportunity to express their views on the tax rate: Mayor Felix opened the public hearing.

Jim Becker, 1105 Meadow Drive, stated we do not have enough funds for street repairs. In some subdivisions, the City needs to pave the sidewalks between the houses, on vacant lots, for a better overall appearance of the City. He stated newsletters could be delivered by email to cut costs.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Council Timm and carried unanimously.

4. Workshop Session: Discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget: The City Council recessed briefly from 8:00 p.m. until 8:18 p.m.

City Manager Allen Barnes and the City Council discussed several possible budget cuts including: non-mandated training, newsletter frequency, dues and subscriptions, assistant city secretary position, incentive pay, Park Lake playground shade structure, and using general fund reserves and retail concentration center funds to reduce the tax increase.

5. Adjourn: There being no further business Mayor Felix adjourned the meeting at 11:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

CITY SECRETARY

MAYOR