

CITY OF CASTLE HILLS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 30, 2011

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Castle Hills was held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 30, 2011, in the Council Chambers at the City of Castle Hills, 209 Lemonwood Drive, Castle Hills, Texas, 78213 to consider the following agenda:

The attendance roster was signed by Bill Martin, Pat Butler, and Helen Glass.

I. OPENING

- A. QUORUM - Present and composing a quorum of the City Council were Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff, Tom Davis, Douglas Gregory, Tim Howell, Marcella Huff, and Steve McGuire.

Staff present was City Manager Michael Steele, Assistant City Manager Rita Hoyl, City Secretary Linda Gill, Court Administrator Wendy Reyes, Assistant Fire Chief Mike Fincke, and Police Chief Donny Davis.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

III. REPORTS - None

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED FY 2012 ANNUAL BUDGET TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2011, AT 3:15 P.M. AT THE CITY OF CASTLE HILLS CITY HALL, 209 LEMONWOOD DRIVE, CASTLE HILLS, TEXAS.

Mayor Smiley-Kaliff called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and announced that this a public hearing on the proposed FY 2012 annual budget and on the proposed 2012 tax rate as well. He said that this is the second hearing, and he doesn't want to cut it short; but he doesn't want it to be redundant either. He said two citizens were present to speak and he invited their comments.

Pat Butler of 215 Briarcliff said he has been a resident of Castle Hills for about two years now. He expressed concern about the potential increase in the tax rate, reminding the council that many of the citizens in Castle Hills are senior citizens who rely on pensions and Social Security. He said that Social Security has not given cost of living allowances in the last two years. He said that, as much as he thinks it is important for city staff to be well and reasonable compensated; he thought the council should remember that many of the senior citizens have not seen any increase in their revenue over the last couple of years. He also pointed out that Castle Hills is only one part of the tax bill that will come due in December. Mr. Butler said that another issue he wanted to address is the bond issue. Mayor Smiley-Kaliff said that the bond issue is not part of this budget.

Council member Huff referred to a salary survey of police departments in the area.

She noted that Castle Hills is competitive with other cities in the area, except for Alamo Heights, which has a very different tax base than Castle Hills. In response to a comment from Mr. Steele, council member Huff said that no step plan was promised three years ago. Mr. Steele said he sees the minutes and knows it was proposed. Ms. Huff said no percentages were ever talked about. She said that is her concern. She said she just wants the council to look at the survey and make sure that we are making decisions based on solid information. She said that she wanted to talk about Administration because there is no department head in Municipal Court. She said that last meeting in Municipal Court salaries there was an increase of close to 15%, and she wants to be sure it is based on solid information.

The mayor said that he has asked Mr. Steele to review that, as well as some other items. He said there will be some adjustments, and the council will get those as soon as they are done with review materials included.

Councilman McGuire said he addressed the revenue side of the budget last Thursday and will not address the expense side. He indicated it still escapes him why they are cutting sales tax revenue for 2012 by 15% when the forecast is that the economy will continue to grow. He said that cut in sales tax is what is driving the property tax increase.

Councilman Gregory suggested remarked that the city salaries are very competitive with other cities in the area. He suggested that the police chief look into asking the Crime Control to pay for some of the expenses that the city pays. He said it has a large surplus that may be used rather than using city funds.

Bill Martin of 113 Cobblestone said whatever we have to do to maintain our Sanitation, Police, and Fire Departments, he is 100% for it. He said these are the things that set Castle Hills apart.

B. PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED 2012 TAX RATE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2011, AT 3:15 P.M. AT THE CITY OF CASTLE HILLS CITY HALL, 209 LEMONWOOD DRIVE, CASTLE HILLS, TEXAS.

This item was combined with Item A.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED FY 2012 ANNUAL BUDGET.

This item was combined with Item IV. A.

B. DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED 2011 TAX RATE.

This item was combined with Item IV. A.

VI. NEW BUSINESS - None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments, the mayor asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Council member Huff moved to adjourn the meeting. Council member Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

These Minutes were approved on the 13th day of September, 2011.

APPROVED:

Bruce Smiley-Kaliff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Gill, City Secretary