

CITY OF CASTLE HILLS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2009

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Castle Hills was held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2009, in the Community Room at City Hall, 209 Lemonwood Drive, Castle Hills, Texas.

I. OPENING

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

Staff present was Interim City Manager Rita Hoyl, City Secretary Linda Gill, Fire Chief Jerry Riedel, and Police Chief Donny Davis. Public Works Director Rick Harada, and Court Administrator Wendy Reyes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

III. REPORTS - None

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED 2010 TAX RATE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 AT 6 P.M. AT THE CITY OF CASTLE HILLS CITY HALL, 209 LEMONWOOD DRIVE, CASTLE HILLS, TEXAS.

Interim City Manager Rita Hoyl presented a Power Point presentation of the proposed tax rate for 2009, which is .458668, or the rollback rate. She stated that the 2008 tax rate was .425801. She explained that, if the rollback rate is approved, the homeowner's tax will increase by \$69.13 on a home valued at \$203,537, which is the average taxable value for a homestead in Castle Hills. She said that adoption of the proposed tax rate will increase revenue \$164,922 over last year. She added that \$16,399 is revenue that will be raised by new property added to the tax roll in 2009. The tax base for 2009 is \$485,545,734. Ms. Hoyl illustrated the changes in revenue using different tax rates.

Dr. Jack Daggett of 114 Dogwood expressed his opposition to an increase in the tax rate. He said that he was really worried about the economy and residents on fixed incomes having to pay higher taxes. He indicated that he would rather have services cut than have to pay out what he cannot afford.

Councilman Davis responded that the council has cut employees to the minimum necessary to provide current city services. He asked Dr. Daggett what services he would do without. Dr. Daggett said that he could live with one garbage pick-up per week.

Mayor Harper reminded everyone that the Public Hearing was about the tax rate. She suggested Dr. Daggett get a copy of the budget and bring questions back to Council on September 8th when the council will vote on it. Ms. Hoyl mentioned that there is a Public Hearing on the budget on September 2nd also.

John Poage of 117 Fox Hall asked how you can talk about the tax rate without talking about the budget because the tax rate is calculated to cover the budget. He said that he is against raising the tax rate.

LaVerne Japhet of 12 Shady Cove asked about the tax rates of other cities, like Hill Country Village and Shavano Park. Ms. Hoyl said their tax rates are so much lower than Castle Hills, only because their property values are so much higher.

V. ADJOURNMENT

After brief discussion, the mayor closed the Public Hearing and adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

These Minutes were approved on the 8th day of September, 2009.

APPROVED:

Marcy Harper, Mayor

ATTEST

Linda Gill, City Secretary