

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, 4700 DREXEL DRIVE, HIGHLAND PARK, TX, 75205, AT 8:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Margo Goodwin and Town Council Members Jimmy Grisham, Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, and Craig Penfold. Absent from the meeting was Mayor Pro Tem David Dowler.

Mayor Goodwin introduced herself and called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

MAIN AGENDA

Consider approval of an ordinance adopting the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$50,597,372, including interfund transfers of \$7,178,970. Steve Alexander, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, explained the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget provides: (i) funding for existing Town-provided services and operations; (ii) a competitive pay and benefit environment for employees; (iii) adequate funding of operating capital needs; and (iv) funding the annual capital transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for future capital needs. When compared to the Proposed Budget submitted to Town Council on July 30, 2021, the revised Proposed Budget reflects a reduction in Water Sales and Sewer Charges in the Utility Fund of \$250,341 due to a reduction of the planned adjustment in water and sewer fees from 4.75% to 3.00%. In addition, there is an increase of \$1,000,000 in Intergovernmental Revenue in the Utility Fund in both FY 2021 Projected and FY 2022 Proposed, due to the American Rescue Plan Act. Attached to this item are revised pages for the Proposed Budget reflecting these changes. On a motion made by Council Member Craig Penfold, seconded by Council Member Marc Myers, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve an ordinance adopting the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$50,597,372, including an interfund transfer of \$7,178,970.

ORDINANCE NO. 2085

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, AND AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES AS SET OUT IN SAID BUDGET.

Consider approval of an ordinance setting the Town's 2021 ad valorem tax rate at \$0.230000 per \$100 of taxable assessed valuation of all taxable property for the 2021 Tax Year, as determined by the Dallas Central Appraisal District. Steve Alexander, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, explained the preliminary tax rate set by the Town Council for Fiscal Year 2021-22 is \$0.230000 per \$100 of taxable assessed valuation. The Town Council can adopt a tax rate at this amount or lower. In response to questions raised by Town Council Members Myers and Novakov, Mr. Alexander explained the proposed 2021 tax rate, consistent with the prior year, will result in a tax levy increase of \$504,725 in property tax revenues, of which \$217,181 is to be raised from new property added to the tax roll for 2021. The governing body of the Town proposes to use the revenue attributable to the tax rate increase for the purpose of funding increases in operating costs and the Town's Capital Improvement Program. The Town's property tax levy on

the average residential homestead property in 2020 (\$2,012,298) was \$4,628.29. The tax levy on the average residential homestead property in 2021 (\$2,067,098) will be \$4,754.33, which is an increase of \$126.04. On a motion made by Council Member Craig Penfold, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Grisham, the Town Council voted unanimously that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.230000, which is effectively a 2.46% increase in the tax rate.

ORDINANCE NO. 2086

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, LEVYING THE AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE TAX YEAR 2021 ON ALL PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS.

Consider ratifying a property tax increase of \$504,725, which represents an increase of 3.34% over last year's adjusted levy, and includes \$217,181 in revenues generated from new property added to the tax roll. Steve Alexander, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, explained that Texas Local Government Code requires a separate vote of the governing body to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget, if the adoption of the budget generates more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year. This vote is in addition to and separate from the vote to adopt the budget or a vote to set the tax rate as required by Chapter 26 of the Texas Tax Code. On a motion made by Council Member Novakov, seconded by Council Member Myers, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve ratifying a property tax increase of \$504,725, which represents an increase of 3.34% over last year's adjusted levy, and includes \$217,181 in revenues generated from new property added to the tax roll.

Review, discuss, and consider approval of a resolution amending the Town's Master Fee Schedule effective October 1, 2021. Steve Alexander, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, explained the Town manages its various fees for services through the maintenance of its Master Fee Schedule. The FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget includes fee changes to adjust for increases in service contracts, as well as to address increasing operating and capital costs. Water and Sewer rates are proposed to be adjusted by 3.00%, which is driven in part by increases in the Town's cost of sewer treatment and an increase in the rate charged by the Dallas County Park Cities Municipal Utility District for water purchases. Additionally, the continued reduction in annual water consumption is contributing to the proposed rate adjustment. The proposed adjustment was reviewed by the Town's water and sewer rate consultant as part of the current year study. Staff proposes to adjust solid waste collection and recycling charges based on the escalation of current contracts with the Town's third-party service providers resulting in an increase to rates ranging between 3.6% and 4.1%. Stormwater drainage fees are also proposed to be adjusted by 3.0%. On a motion made by Council Member Myers, seconded by Council Member Novakov, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution amending the Town's Master Fee Schedule effective October 1, 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 007-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS AMENDING ITS MASTER FEE SCHEDULE.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 a.m.

APPROVED on this 19th day of October 2021.

APPROVED:



Margo Goodwin
Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary