

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE 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 5, 2023.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Will C. Beecherl, Mayor Pro Tem Craig Penfold, and Town Council Members Lydia Novakov, Don Snell, and Leland White. Absent from the meeting was Council Member Marc Myers.

Council Member Don Snell gave the Invocation.

Mayor Beecherl asked if anyone wished to address the Town Council and explained that the Town Council may not discuss or make decisions on items not listed on the agenda. Issues raised may be referred to staff for research and possible future action.

Nancy Schmitt, 3428 Princeton Avenue, requested the Town Council to address the property tax increase and an outgrowth in the budget, specifically in the number of staff growing since the late 1970s. Ms. Schmitt explained that she was an Assistant Pool Manager and shared her experience working with the Administration department. Ms. Schmitt was also displeased with the resources spent planting unsustainable landscape material.

***PUBLIC HEARING***

*Conduct a public hearing to receive citizen comments on the Proposed Combined Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24.* Karen Kurtin, CPA, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, explained that the public hearing provides a forum for public comments on the Proposed FY 2023-24 Combined Budget ("Proposed Budget"). On July 31, 2023, the Town Administrator submitted the Proposed Budget to the Town Council, the Town Secretary, and the Finance and Audit Advisory Committee. The Texas Local Government Code requires that the Town hold a public hearing on the Proposed Budget. Mayor Beecherl opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment. No comment was made.

*Conduct a public hearing to receive public comments regarding the 2023 Tax Year Proposed Property Tax Rate.* Karen Kurtin, CPA, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, explained that the Texas Property Tax Code requires that if a taxing unit's governing body proposes to set a tax rate that exceeds the computed no-new-revenue rate, a public hearing must be held. The Town's computed 2023 no-new-revenue and voter-approval tax rates are \$0.203305 and \$0.220530 per \$100 of taxable assessed value, respectively. At its meeting on August 15, 2023, the Town Council set a preliminary tax rate of \$0.220530 per \$100 of taxable assessed value, the same as the voter-approval tax rate. Mayor Beecherl opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment. No comment was made.

Mayor Beecherl closed the Public Hearing for the Proposed Combined Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and the 2023 Tax Year Proposed Property Tax Rate.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Craig Penfold, seconded by Council Member Lydia Novakov, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve Items A. through E. on the Consent Agenda. Before the vote, Mayor Beecherl explained that the Town Council reviewed these items prior to the meeting.

- A. Consider approval of an award of the Town's employee health insurance plan for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to Cigna and insurance related to Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and Long-Term Disability for FY 2023-24 to Dearborn National.*
- B. Consider for approval the continuation of an interlocal agreement with the Highland Park Independent School District to provide funding for School-Based Law Enforcement officers at Armstrong Elementary School and Bradfield Elementary School.*
- C. Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on August 15, 2023.*
- D. Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council study session held on August 15, 2023.*
- E. Consider approval of the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on August 16, 2023.*

Mayor Beecherl adjourned the Town Council meeting at 8:12 a.m.

Approved on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

APPROVED:



Will C. Beecherl  
Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanna Mekeal  
Town Secretary