

IRVING CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

September 13, 2007

The City Council met in special session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Complex on September 13, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. The following members were present:

Herbert A. Gears

Councilmembers

Beth Van Duyne

Allan E. Meagher

Lewis Patrick

Rick Stopfer

Sam Smith

Rose Cannaday

Joe Philipp

Thomas Spink

Mayor Gears called the meeting to order.

1 Public Hearing—Public Input On The 2007-2008 City of Irving Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor Gears introduced the item and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor or opposition.

Joe Sissom, 3500 Gentry, stated his opposition to the funding used for Spanish publications and programs.

Oscar Ward, 608 Farine Dr., opposed the proposed additional attorney, and recommended looking at a zero based budget and awarding good stewardship of funds by the departments.

Lucia Rottenberg, 2220 Indian Creek Dr., noted her concern for the increased ambulance fees. She also stated her opposition to the utility fees but suggested that hospitals and food establishments be exempt from these fees.

Jacqualea Cooley, 1633 Drexel, stated that the budget format is not user-friendly, as she had to review 1400 pages on the internet.

Sue Harper, 1117 S. Delaware, said that the new fees and the fee increases included in the budget are actually taxes and that people should be aware of their impact.

Sue Richardson, 1521 Belmead Ln., noted her concern regarding costs; she stated that the proposed 35 new employees were too many and that the 6.4% increase in water rates was too high.

Dr. John Barrett, 2314 Dewitt St., suggested an incentive program for citizens to use less water and offered personal Xeriscaping conservation education at no cost to the City.

Joyce Howard, 1401 Colony Dr., noted that the budget did not include the statistics on projected new homes and businesses for the next year. She stated that the Spectrum was too expensive but commended its design. She also noted concern regarding a 10% increase in pay for the employees and questioned when the last audit was conducted.

2 Public Hearing – Public Input On A Proposal To Increase Total Tax Revenues From Properties On The Tax Roll In The Preceding Tax Year By 9.57 Percent

Mayor Gears introduced the item and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor or opposition.

The following registered in opposition, but did not wish to speak:

Erin Perdue, 2001 Meadow Lark.

Councilwoman Van Duynes requested a brief summary of what the proposal entails. She also noted that this proposal is not increasing the tax rate but will increase that amount of tax paid by most residents.

Budget and Finance Manager Bret Starr explained the growth in revenues due to an increase in property appraisals for commercial and residential properties.

Mayor Gears responded to questions that were put forward during the budget public hearing and noted that the City deports an average of 250 illegal aliens a month.

Councilman Stopfer responded to questions concerning the drainage and beautification fee increase and the state requirements that make these fees necessary.

The meeting adjourned at the 7:40 P.M.

ATTEST:

Herbert A. Gears
Mayor

Janice Carroll, TRMC
City Secretary