

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE IRVING CITY COUNCIL
September 27, 2007

The City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Complex on September 27, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. The following members were present:

Mayor Herbert A. Gears

Councilmembers

Thomas D. Spink

Beth Van Duyne

Allan E. Meagher

Lewis Patrick

Rose Cannaday

Rick Stopfer

Sam Smith

Joe Philipp

AGENDA

1 Ordinance No. 8867 – Public Hearing And Adoption Of 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.

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez stated that a video would be shown, and he also gave a presentation on this item.

Bret Starr presented a power point presentation and stated that the city has a balanced budget.

The following registered to speak in opposition of the budget as presented:

Nancy Wilson, 2911 Bryn Mawr, addressed Strategic Goal # 5 on diversity; she stated that she does not feel it is necessary to spend so much money on this goal. She had heard that it is in excess of \$560,000.

Sue Richardson, 1521 Belmead Lane, stated that she opposes any increases in fees and taxes and she would like to see a roll back in taxes. She stated she also opposed expenditures of diversity issues.

Joe Sissom, 3500 Gentry, thanked Police Chief Larry Boyd for reporting to ICE the illegal immigrants. He also spoke about the library diversity budget and asked that the \$46,000.00 budgeted for Spanish language books eliminated.

Nelda LaVarnway, did not speak, but she is in opposition of the budget as approved.

Jacqualea Cooley, 1633 Drexel, spoke in opposition to the budget and the manner in which it was presented. She asked that the Council cut expenses and not raise fees and taxes.

Joyce Pittman, 1401 Colony Drive, stated that she is also opposed to the budget. She is concerned about the landfill and assuring that it is maintained only for our citizens. She also thanked Chief Boyd for all his hard work with the immigration issues.

The following spoke in favor of this item:

John Mitchell, 2024 Parkridge, President of the Irving Police Association, he endorsed the strategies of the proposed budget the city manager has presented to the Mayor and Council. He also thanked the Council for their support. He stated that on September 25, 2007 the editorial staff of the Dallas Morning News attacked the integrity of a group of people who have done nothing but serve this city from the bottom of their heart. The men and women of his organization have spent thousand of hours coaching youth sports in this community, raising almost \$100,000.00 for Make a Wish Foundation and going into the elementary schools to give lessons on drugs and drug use, donation school supplies to teachers, Blue Christmas, and counseling for families at the Family Advocacy Center.

Grant Blake, 3403 Hidden Oaks Lane, President of the Irving Professional Firefighters, also supports the budget and supports Goal No. 4 to provide a safe and secure city; the budget will increase four firemen to their staff which will provide the quality of service that is provided to the citizens of Irving.

Jacky Knox, 850 E. Las Colinas Blvd, commended the Mayor and Council, City Manager and the management team for their leadership on this budget. He also addressed the specifics with what has happened with DCURD in the last two years. He asked that the Council support this budget for its continuing success.

Councilman Philipp asked that Mr. Knox give an explanation of some of the things DCURD does for the city.

Mr. Knox explained that the primary function of DCURD is to provide storm drainage and flood control for that area of Irving.

Councilman Stopfer noted that there are four flood districts in Irving, and he explained that a percentage of the money collected by the city is given to the districts to remove the silt that is in their waterways.

Bobbie Thomas, 118 W. Rochelle Road, spoke on behalf of the funding for the Public Library and the Parks and Recreation Department. She also supports the funding for the Police and Fire departments.

Phil Dunn, 512 E. Arawe Circle, a Lieutenant in the Fire Department spoke positively of the new City Manager Tommy Gonzalez and for the positive communication and mutual respect that he has brought to the city of Irving. He also appreciates the appointment of Chief Molina and stated that this has also been an extraordinary step

forward for the future of the Fire Department. He supports the budget.

Sharon Barbosa-Crain, 208 Alan-a-Dale, spoke in favor of this budget and thanked the Mayor and Council for their dedication in working with this budget. She also spoke favorably of the sidewalk program, Keep Irving Beautiful, the parks, the economic development and the safety expenditures for the city of Irving.

The following registered to in favor of this item, but did not wish to speak:
Josh Smith, 2721 Still Meadow

Councilman Meagher moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilman Patrick, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-2, with the following voting in opposition: Councilwoman Van Duyne and Councilman Spink.

- 2 Resolution No. 9-27-07-388** – Ratifying The Approval Of The 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget That Raises More Property Tax Revenue Than The 2006-2007 Fiscal Year Budget

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

The following registered to speak in opposition, but were not present:
Jacqualea Cooley, 1633 Drexel
Joyce Pittman, 1401 Colony

The following registered in support, but did not wish to speak:
John Burke, 2920 W. Shady Grove #302

Councilman Stopfer moved to approve the resolution as presented. Seconded by Councilman Patrick, the motion was approved by a vote of 9-0.

- 3 Ordinance No. 8868** – Setting The 2007 Tax Rate And Levying The Tax As Required By The State Of Texas Property Tax Code

Mayor Gears introduced the item and stated that no one signed up to speak on this item.

Mayor Gear moved that the property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.5406. Seconded by Councilman Stopfer, the motion was approved by a vote of 9-0.

- 4 Ordinance No. 8869** – Adopting The 2007 City Of Irving Tax Roll As Required By The State Of Texas Property Tax Code

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

The following registered to speak in favor of this item:
Evangelist Ike N.S. Okeke, 4062 N. Beltline Road #104

Councilman Stopfer moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Cannaday, the motion was approved by a vote of 9-0.

5 Ordinance No. 8870 – Imposing The One Percent Municipal Sales Tax On Gas And Electricity For Residential Use

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

The following registered to speak in opposition of this item:

John Berkley, 216 Crandall Road, spoke against taxing utilities.

Nancy Wilson, 2911 Bryn Mawr, not present to speak.

Jacqualea Cooley, 1633 Drexel, stated that there was not enough opportunity for input on the budget. She suggested that for next year's budget that a draft budget be put out to the public for the citizens to read before the budget retreat in August.

Nelda LaVarway, was not present to speak

Joyce Pittman, 1401 Colony Drive, agreed with Ms. Cooley; she is not opposed to all that is in the budget, but should have provisions for people on fixed incomes, senior citizens and the disabled.

Councilman Philipp asked that Budget and Financial Manager Bret Starr review the budget calendar.

Mr. Starr stated that the budget process starts in March. This year two public hearing were held this spring prior to the retreat. He stated that more can be done in the future to have some public forums that are separate from the Council meetings; this will allow citizens to have greater input to the budget.

City Manager Gonzalez stated that three town hall meetings were held as well as two public hearings over the course of the past twelve months, so actually five opportunities were provided for public input.

Councilman Stopfer stated that there are tax reduction programs for the seniors that own a home. They get the 20% homestead exemption which is for all residential homeowners, but also, there is the \$30,000.00 senior reduction. So, if you have a \$100,000.00 home in Irving you get a \$30,000.00 deduction so that lowers the taxable value to \$70,000.00 and the 20% homestead lowers it to \$50,000.00. He

also stated that seniors get a 20% reduction in sanitation fees.

Councilman Stopfer moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilman Patrick, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-2, with the following voting in opposition: Councilwoman Van Duyne and Councilman Spink.

6 Resolution No. 9-27-07-389 – Approving A Renewal Contract Between The City Of Irving And Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB)

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

The following registered to speak in favor of this item

Angel Rivers, 2621 W. 11th Street, a student at Nimitz High School spoke on behalf of Keep Irving Beautiful, and invited the Council to attend the Litter Index which will be conducted on Saturday morning and the Photo Metric Index which will be held on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Margie Stipes, 1602 Upton Place, Boardmember for Keep Irving Beautiful; briefly reviewed some of their joint accomplishments between the City of Irving and Keep Irving Beautiful. She also commended the Junior Historians from Nimitz High School for always supporting Keep Irving Beautiful.

Councilman Stopfer moved to approve the resolution as presented. Seconded by Councilman Smith, the motion was approved by a vote of 9-0.

Mayor Gears adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Herbert A. Gears, Mayor

Janice Carroll, TRMC
City Secretary