

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
FOR TAX REVENUE INCREASE
AND 2014-2015 BUDGET WORKSHOP
OF THE OAK LEAF CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON AUGUST 26, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.
AT OAK LEAF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present:

Mayor Craig Wilson

Councilman Bob Rader

Councilman Matthew Gardner

Mayor Pro Tem James Pierce

Councilman Joyce Liptak

Councilman Mark Bounds

City Staff Present:

City Secretary Ronda Quintana

MAYOR WILSON CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING / BUDGET WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 7:03 P.M. AND ANNOUNCED A QUORUM PRESENT.

A. INVOCATION:

Mayor Wilson gave the Invocation.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

It was followed by the declaration of the Pledge of Allegiance by the City Council.

II. CONVENE INTO 2014-2015 BUDGET WORKSHOP:

The 2014-2015 Budget Workshop convened at 7:05 p.m., and the following budget items were discussed:

- Item 51122 (Fire Protection Supplement)
- Item 52010 (Wage Expense)
- Item 54110 (Bridge)
- Item 51240 (Publishing)
- Item 51280 (Technology Support)
- Item 54120 (Right-Of-Way)
- Item 55010 (Capital Outlay)

City Council discussed Item 51122 (Fire Protection Supplement), which involves making a supplemental payment to the Ovilla and Red Oak for providing emergency services to Oak Leaf. Councilman Liptak stated she has attempted to find out what Ovilla and Red Oak charge for an emergency service run, but there has been no response. She has also researched the budgets for both cities, but they give no details. Mayor Wilson indicated the fire departments can provide the cost for an average run. Councilman Liptak mentioned any grant monies would have to be subtracted out. Mayor Pro Tem Pierce agreed. Then Councilman Liptak indicated she would like to know how much each taxing unit pays. Mayor Wilson explained the citizens of Ovilla and Red Oak pay for emergency services through their city taxes. However, all residents of Oak Leaf, Pecan Hill and the unincorporated areas of ESD #4 pay for those same services through their district taxes. Councilman Liptak commented on being able to justify the ESD tax rate increase to the citizens and Councilman Bounds concurred. Mayor

Wilson mentioned he has been receiving monthly reports from the Red Oak Fire Department, which list what kind of runs were made, and that he would e-mail the reports to the council members. Then, the discussion focused on the value of the emergency runs and how to calculate it. Mayor Wilson advised the council member to wait until the ESD #4 has some solid numbers to work with and until the fire departments have set their terms of negotiation. Councilman Rader asked what would happen if the supplemental payment was found to be over the actual amount needed to service the city. Mayor Pro Tem Pierce replied that the fire departments incorporate all expenses (including equipment depreciation) into each run. Councilman Rader inquired as to which fire department was disputing their contract the most and he was informed it was Ovilla. Because of the ESD's payment formula, Ovilla did not feel they were being fairly compensated.

Mayor Wilson then made a comment about there being only three East Texas Medical Center ambulances available to Ellis County and that both fire departments are first responders if the ambulances are busy.

As for the other budget items discussed, City Council agreed to the three percent raise in wages for city personnel. The amount allocated for the Woodhaven Bridge Project (Item 54110) was increased from \$40,000.00 to \$150,000.00 and Item 55010 for Capital Outlay was increased from \$10,000.00 to \$60,000.00 to accommodate the construction of a city pavilion and installation of park elements.

III. ADJOURN FROM THE BUDGET WORKSHOP AND CONVENE INTO PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING TAX REVENUE INCREASE:

The Budget Workshop adjourned and the Public Hearing convened at 8:02 p.m. However, there were no audience participants present to discuss the tax revenue increase.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Before adjourning, Mayor Wilson asked the council members if they had any closing comments. Councilman Bounds mentioned the August 16th Self Defense Class went well and encouraged the City Council to attend and invite friends, family members and neighbors to come, as well.

City Secretary Quintana mentioned there had been substantial damage to the guardrail at the southeast corner of the Locust Drive / S. Hampton Road intersection.

With no further comments from City Council, Councilman Liptak motioned to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Councilman Bounds seconded the motion, and Mayor Wilson called for a vote.

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Ayes: All
Nays: None
The motion passed.

PASSED THIS 9th DAY OF September, 2014

Craig Wilson

Craig Wilson, Mayor

ATTEST: *Ronda Quintana*
Ronda Quintana, City Secretary

