

TOWN OF WESTOVER HILLS

MINUTES

**Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2013
Westover Hills Town Hall**

Present:

Mayor Stephen Tatum
Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Thompson
Council Member John R. Thompson III
Council Member Marcus Snyder
Council Member Elliot Goldman
Council Member Jack Koslow

Staff Present:

David Burgess, Town Administrator/Police Chief
Tim Chambers, Public Works Director
Randy McKee, Building Official
Penny Spikes, City Secretary
Mary Barkley, City Attorney

A meeting of the Westover Hills Town Council was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at the Westover Hills Town Hall pursuant to written notice posted on Friday, August 16, 2013.

1. Call To Order.

With a quorum of Council Members present, Mayor Stephen Tatum called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Approve minutes of July 16, 2013 council meeting.

Council Member John Thompson made the motion, seconded by Council Member Elliot Goldman, that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting on July 16, 2013 be approved. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Financial Statement.

Town Administrator David Burgess presented the Town's activity report along with the financial statements prepared by RCO. Mr. Burgess noted that there was an error on the Court Administration Rent line item – the item was overstated due to the August payment being accidentally included. Mr. Jack Koslow questioned the water loss percentage on the activity report and Mr. Burgess explained it was an error on Fort Worth's part. Fort Worth has since replaced their faulty meter and all future readings should be correct.

4. Discussion of draft of FY2014 General and Water Budgets.

Town Administrator David Burgess presented the proposed FY2014 operating budget. This is a proposed budget that is still in working process and might be revised before the budget is officially adopted in September.

Mr. Marcus Snyder explained the proposed Water Fund budget. The Town's water rates will remain the same even though Fort Worth is increasing their water rates by 11.4%. It was argued that the Town's rates should increase accordingly with Fort Worth's rate increase, but ultimately decided that any future funds needed by the Water Fund can be supplemented through an increase in Ad Valorem taxes.

The General Fund was also examined in detail. It was decided that options need to be explored to decrease the Town's accounting/reporting expenses next year, such as hiring a new Town Administrator with an accounting/finance background. Trash expenses were also debated. The cost to the Town to dispose of each bag of trash is currently \$0.88, but only \$0.50 per extra bag is billed to residents. An increase to \$1.00 per extra bag was discussed, but no final decision has been made. Alarm monitoring fees were considered as well. Some Council members believe more residents should participate in the Police Department's monitoring services, which would provide more security to the Town as a whole. This could be possible through reducing, or entirely eliminating, the current monthly monitoring fee of \$15.00. Salaries were also discussed and Council generously agreed to the proposed 2% COLA pay raise for all Town employees even though the CPI is only 1.6%.

Both budgets will be finalized and adopted in the next City Council meeting on September 17, 2013.

5. Discuss the proposed tax rate, based on budget discussion, to include a possible tax increase.

The Town has the ability to operate on the same budget as last year, therefore there is no need to raise the tax rate for FY2014. Revenue will increase slightly due to new construction, but the actual tax rate will decrease slightly from 0.36023758 in FY2013 to 0.35050110 for FY2014.

Executive Session.

Mayor Stephen Tatum adjourned the regular meeting to convene into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. Seek the advice of its attorneys concerning the following pending or contemplated litigation or other matters that are exempt from public disclosure under Article X, Section 9 of the Texas State Bar Rules and as authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code:
 - a. Legal issues concerning any item listed on today's City Council meeting agendas.
2. Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property in accordance with Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code. Deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third party.
3. Deliberate the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices, in accordance with Section 551.076 of the Texas Government Code.

4. Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, in accordance with Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

Mayor Stephen Tatum adjourned the Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to reconvene into the regular meeting.


6. Adjourn.

There being no further business, Mayor Stephen Tatum adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Approved:



Penny Spikes
City Secretary



Stephen Tatum
Mayor