

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 — 6:00 P.M.
209 S. WASHINGTON
KAUFMAN, TEXAS 75142**

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

MAYOR	WILLIAM FORTNER
MAYOR PRO-TEM	LONNIE BOUNDS
COUNCILMEMBER	GIL ALTOM JR.
COUNCILMEMBER	JEFF COUNCIL
COUNCILMEMBER	CHARLES GILLENWATER
COUNCILMEMBER	BARRY RATCLIFFE
COUNCILMEMBER	VON CARL THOMAS

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Fortner called the Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Councilmembers present were William Fortner, Lonnie Bounds, Gil Altom Jr., and Jeff Council. Mayor Fortner declared a quorum present. Councilmember Gillenwater arrived at 6:07 p.m. Councilmember Ratcliffe and Councilmember Von Carl Thomas were absent. Also present were City Manager Curtis Snow and City Secretary Jo Ann Talbot.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (5 MINUTES) Citizens may address the City Council on any subject but must first complete a Request to Speak Form. Comments are limited to five (5) minutes, but no more than five (5) minutes per individual, and are not transferable. Citizen's comments not to exceed a total of 15 minutes.

No comments were made by citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Conduct the second Public Hearing on a proposed Tax Rate Increase for the City of Kaufman. (Schedule September 17, 2007 to Vote on Tax Rate)

Mayor Fortner declared the Public Hearing open at 6:04 p.m.

Councilmember Bounds asked the City Manager to explain the tax rate increase. City Manager Curtis Snow reported that the City is reducing the tax rate of \$0.62 cents from last year to \$0.6088 cents. There will be a net increase in taxes collected. Total Assessed Valuations for property in Kaufman increase to where it would only take \$0.57 cents to collect the same revenue as last year. The \$0.6088 tax rate is primarily to reduce the City's need to draw from reserves to fund capital improvements.

Mayor Fortner declared the Public Hearing closed. At 6:07 p.m.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

2. Consider first reading and approval of Ordinance O-17-07 an Ordinance authorizing and allowing, under the act governing the Texas Municipal Retirement System, "Updated Service Credits" in said system on an annual basis for service performed by qualifying members of such system who at the effective date of the allowance are in the employment of the City of Kaufman; providing for increased prior and current service annuities for retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees of the city; to increase the rate of deposits to the Texas Municipal Retirement System by the employees of the city; and establishing an effective date for the ordinance.

City Manager Curtis Snow informed the City Council that this is the first reading of O-17-07 to implement the Texas Municipal Retirement System increase deposit rate to 7% for all city employees. He informed the Council that this deposit rate is consistent with all other surrounding cities.

Councilmember Altom moved and seconded by Councilmember Council to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-17-07 an Ordinance authorizing and allowing, under the act governing the Texas Municipal Retirement System, "Updated Service Credits" in said system on an annual basis for service performed by qualifying members of such system who at the effective date of the allowance are in the employment of the City of Kaufman; providing for increased prior and current service annuities for retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees of the city; to increase the rate of deposits to the Texas Municipal Retirement System by the employees of the city; and establishing an effective date for the ordinance. Mayor Fortner called for a vote with all voting AYE, the motion carried. Councilmember Thomas and Councilmember Ratcliffe were absent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER.

City Manager Curtis Snow reminded the Council of the Regular City Council Meeting – Monday, September 17, 2007.

REQUEST/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bounds asked to place the newly adopted Sidewalk Ordinance on the September 17, 2007 agenda for reconsideration.

Councilmember Altom asked for the City Attorney to give the Council a written

opinion regarding sidewalk liability of who is responsible for the maintenance, the city or the property owners.

Councilmember Altom inquired about a crosswalk to the Kaufman County Courthouse. City Manager Curtis Snow informed the Council that he has contacted the area District Engineer and is waiting for a response.

Councilmember Council reported of a handicap rail loose at the corner of N. Washington and East Grove by the old Scott's Pharmacy. He also reported that the old parking meter poles that were removed years ago stick up from the concrete and are a trip hazard.

Councilmember Gillenwater complemented how well the Highway 175 underpass landscaping project looks.

Mayor Fortner announced to the Council that he would like to give a plaque as often as possible for persons of meritorious or commendable reasons and would invite suggestions from the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, Councilmember Gillenwater moved and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bounds to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Mayor Fortner called for a vote with all voting AYE, the motion carried. Councilmember Thomas and Councilmember Ratcliffe were absent.

**WILLIAM FORTNER
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**JO ANN TALBOT
CITY SECRETARY**