

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
7:30 P.M.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Whiting called the City of Hilshire Village Council Meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. at 8301 Westview, Houston, Texas 77055.

**1.1 Invocation:** was given by Mayor Whiting.

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.3 Present:** were Mayor Shannon Whiting, Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Post and Council Members Michael Gordy, Edward Davis, Paul Maddock and David Gunn. Also present was City Secretary Susan Blevins.

**2. DISCUSSION:**

**2.1 General and Utility Fund Budget, Tax Rate and Capital Improvements:**

Mayor Whiting stated Council had two (2) Public Hearings where the Budget was discussed. She said the City had received the actual number from the Police Department and the only thing that still needed to be decided was a compensation/benefit package for personnel. She stated Council would go into an Executive Session to discuss the matter since it was a personnel issue. Mayor Whiting said that the Non Metro Engineering had been reduced after City Secretary had reviewed the actual cost and found that a lot of this year's cost was for the David Schwab potential subdivision.

Mayor Whiting went over the Capital Improvements and then the Utility Budget. She said the Budget's water revenue is \$272,162 based on an increase in water rates. Mayor Whiting stated that the average resident would receive an \$18 increase for a two (2) month period with this increase in water rates. The Mayor said that the City does not bill for all the water it purchases from the City of Houston. The City loses approximately 10% to unmetered water. Council decided to do a flat increase instead of a two (2) tiered water rate.

**Adjourned the Special Council Meeting at 8:04 PM**

**3. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**3.1** Council went into Executive Session to discuss compensation/benefit package for personnel.

### **Reconvene the Special Council Meeting at 8:32 PM**

**3.2** Mayor Whiting stated that Council discussed raising the City Secretary base salary to an even \$60,000.00 and to remove line 34, Treasurer Stipend. Keep line 33 in the Budget, but re-label it to read "Retirement Investment Plan" and budget \$10,000 for FYE 2015. The City will review the TMRS Retirement System at the next Council Meeting. She stated Council will vote on these changes with the adoption of the Budget.

### **4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None**

### **5. ACTION ITEMS:**

**5.1** Council Member Maddock made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 711 amending Appendix A, Fee Schedule of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas by deleting section 7.200 and replacing with a new section 7.200 establishing new water and trash rates, seconded by Council Member Davis.

City Secretary Blevins stated that in the proposed budget a \$0.55 per gallon rate increase would net a \$2,497.00 increase in revenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if Council wanted to change the rate increase to \$0.50 per gallon. Council Member Maddock said he thought Council should go with the proposed ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Post then asked how much Severn Trent was increasing their rates. City Secretary Blevins stated that the repairs were high this year at \$40,000.00. She feels that once the water lines are fixed on Pine Creek and Bridle Spur the repair costs will be nominal. Council Member Gordy stated that it was now \$15.00 per hour for the backhoe and \$15.00 for a truck when used. The Mayor stated that there was no guarantee that any rate increase would offset costs. **A vote was taken to approve the motion approving Ordinance Number 711 amending Appendix A, Fee Schedule of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas by deleting section 7.200 and replacing with a new section 7.200 establishing new water and trash rates. The vote passed unanimously.**

**5.2** Council Member Maddock made a motion to approve the General Budget for the FYE 2015 including the changes made tonight. (In accordance with Section 102.007(c) of the Local Government Code, adoption of this year's budget will require raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year; therefore, the City must, by separate vote of the City, ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget). This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by \$41,539.00 which is a 4.80 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$11,278.00, seconded by Council Member Davis. **A vote was taken to approve the motion approving the General Budget for the FYE 2015. (In accordance with Section 102.007(c) of the Local Government Code, adoption of this year's budget will require raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year; therefore, the City must, by separate vote of the City, ratify the property tax**

increase reflected in the budget). This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by \$41,539.00 which is a 4.80 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$11,278.00. The vote passed unanimously.

**5.3** Council Member Maddock made a motion to approve of a component of the tax rate in the amount of \$0.449828/100 for the purpose of funding the maintenance and operation expenditures of the City for the FYE 2015, which such tax rate will effectively be raised by 8% from last year's tax rate and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately – \$14.19, seconded by Council Member Davis. **A vote was taken to approve the motion approving a component of the tax rate in the amount of \$0.449828/100 for the purpose of funding the maintenance and operation expenditures of the City for the FYE 2015, which such tax rate will effectively be raised by 8% from last year's tax rate and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately -\$14.19. The vote passed unanimously.**

**5.4** Council Member Maddock made a motion to approve a component of the tax rate in the amount of \$0.083613/100 for the purpose of paying the accruing interest and to provide a sinking fund for payment of the indebtedness of the City for the next fiscal year, seconded by Council Member Davis. **A vote was taken to approve the motion approving a component of the tax rate the in the amount of \$0.083613/100 for the purpose of paying the accruing interest and to provide a sinking fund for payment of the indebtedness of the City for the next fiscal year. The vote passed unanimously.**

**5.5** Council Member Gunn made a motion to approve the property tax rate to be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.533441/100, which is effectively a 3.66 percent increase in the tax, seconded by Council Member Maddock. **A vote was taken to approve the motion approving the property tax rate to be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.533441/100, which is effectively a 3.66 percent increase in the tax. The vote passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Post, Council Members Gordy, Davis, Gunn and Maddock voted for the motion.**

**5.6** Council Member Gunn made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 709 providing for the levy and collection of Ad Valorem taxes of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas for the year 2014: providing for two components to the proposed tax rate, consisting of a tax rate of \$0.083613 cents on each one hundred dollars for the purpose of paying the accruing interest and to provide a sinking fund for payment of the indebtedness of the City, and a tax rate of \$0.449828 cents on each one hundred dollars for the purpose of funding the maintenance and operation expenditures; this tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate, the tax rate will effectively be raised by 8 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately -\$14.19, which shall be approved by separate motion; providing for the date on which such taxes shall be due and payable; providing for penalty and interest on all taxes not timely paid; repealing all ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; and providing for severability. A vote was taken to

approve the motion approving Ordinance No. 709 providing for the levy and collection of Ad Valorem taxes of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas for the year 2014: providing for two components to the proposed tax rate, consisting of a tax rate of \$0.083613 cents one each one hundred dollars for the purpose of paying the accruing interest and to provide a sinking fund for payment of the indebtedness of the City, and a tax rate of \$0.449828 cents on each one hundred dollars for the purpose of funding the maintenance and operation expenditures; this tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate, the tax rate will effectively be raised by 8 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$-14.19, which shall be approved by separate motion; providing for the date on which such taxes shall be due and payable; providing for penalty and interest on all taxes not timely paid; repealing all ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; and providing for severability, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Post. **A vote was taken to approve the motion approving Ordinance No. 709 providing for the levy and collection of Ad Valorem taxes of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas for the year 2014: providing for two components to the proposed tax rate, consisting of a tax rate of \$0.083613 cents on each one hundred dollars for the purpose of paying the accruing interest and to provide a sinking fund for payment of the indebtedness of the City, and a tax rate of \$0.449828 cents on each one hundred dollars for the purpose of funding the maintenance and operation expenditures; this tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate, the tax rate will effectively be raised by 8 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$-14.19, which shall be approved by separate motion; providing for the date on which such taxes shall be due and payable; providing for penalty and interest on all taxes not timely paid; repealing all ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; and providing for severability. A vote was taken to approve the motion approving Ordinance No. 709 providing for the levy and collection of Ad Valorem taxes of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas for the year 2014: providing for two components to the proposed tax rate, consisting of a tax rate of \$0.083613 cents one each one hundred dollars for the purpose of paying the accruing interest and to provide a sinking fund for payment of the indebtedness of the City, and a tax rate of \$0.449828 cents on each one hundred dollars for the purpose of funding the maintenance and operation expenditures; this tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate, the tax rate will effectively be raised by 8 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$-14.19, which shall be approved by separate motion; providing for the date on which such taxes shall be due and payable; providing for penalty and interest on all taxes not timely paid; repealing all ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; and providing for severability. The vote passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Post, Council Members Gordy, Davis, Gunn and Maddock voted for the motion.**

**5.7** Mayor Pro Tem Post made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 710 amending Chapter 7 Offenses and Nuisance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas by deleting Article No. 7.705 and replacing said Article with a new 7.705 adjusting the time frame in which the tree needs to be replaced, seconded by Council Member Maddock.

Mayor Pro Tem Post said that the current ordinance required when a permit is pulled to remove a tree, residents have thirty days in which to replace the tree. This time frame is not reasonable since there are times during the year when it is not feasible to plant trees. She and Alan Wolfe looked over the calendar and decided that 120 days was best as throughout the year that time frame would give residents a window to plant. At present because one only has to replace a tree if it is eight (8) inches or more in diameter with a new tree that only has to be three (3) inches in diameter, if the new tree dies, it does not have to be replaced. The new ordinance states that at the end of the year, if a new tree dies, it has to be replaced. Most trees have a one (1) year warranty so the replacement would be covered. With all the new homes being built, the cost of a three (3) inch diameter tree should give homeowners think twice before removing a tree.

Mayor Pro Tem Post said she thinks that all those who have a tree permit should be notified of the new ordinance and the clock is ticking. She also said will be treated the same. Council Member Maddock asked about the penalty for non-compliance. The Mayor responded the penalty is up to \$2,000.00.

**A vote was taken approving the motion to approve Ordinance No. 710 amending Chapter 7 Offenses and Nuisance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas by deleting Article No. 7.705 and replacing said Article with a new 7.705 adjusting the time frame in which the tree needs to be replaced. The vote passed unanimously.**

#### **6. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**6.1 CONSENT AGENDA:** Council Member Maddock made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which included disbursements, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Post. **A vote was taken to approve the motion approving the Consent Agenda, which included disbursements. The vote passed unanimously.**

**7. ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS:** None

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Fire Department will be having an Open House on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member Maddock made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Post. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

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Shannon Whiting, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Susan Blevins, City Secretary