

**MINUTES
HALTOM CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING/STAFF BUDGET WORKSHOP
HALTOM CITY HALL
50245 BROADWAY AVENUE, HALTOM CITY, TEXAS 76117
August 31, 2015**

A Special Meeting/Budget Workshop was held by the City Council of the City of Haltom City, Texas, on August 31, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, Haltom City, Texas, with the following members present:

Mayor David Averitt	Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Watkins
Council Place 1 Jeannine Nunn	Council Place 2 Walter Grow
Council Place 3 Scott Garrett	Council Place 4 Trae Fowler
Council Place 7 Dr. An Truong	
Council Place 6 Stephanie Davenport	was absent.

Staff Present: Tom Muir, City Manager; Chuck Barnett, Assistant City Manager; Art Camacho, City Secretary; Jennifer Fung, Finance Director; Toni Beckett, Human Resources and Risk Management Director; Steve Ross, Fire Chief; Tim Cool, IT Director; Jonathan Elliott, Sign Technician, and Greg Van Nieuwenhuize, Public Works Director.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Averitt called the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop to order at 7:04 p.m.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Council Member Walter Grow gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Flag Pledge.

- FY2016 Tax Rate** – Conduct a public hearing regarding the FY2016 proposed tax rate. Finance Director Jennifer Fung gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the current tax rate (\$0.69999/per \$100), the effective tax rate (\$0.709255/per 100), and the proposed maximum rate (\$0.763711/\$100). Mayor Averitt opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m. No citizen came forward. Mayor Averitt closed the Public Hearing at 7:11 and stated the next public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be conducted on September 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers and a record vote to adopt the tax rate will be conducted on September 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.
- TEXRail Project** – Consideration and/or action regarding the City's participation in the TEXRail Project with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority. City Manager Tom Muir presented the agenda item and a discussion was held regarding the possible number of citizens using this transport method, the two local train stations availability, and the lack of necessary funding. Council Member Trae Fowler moved, seconded by Council Member Dr. An Truong, to not approve expenditures for participation in the TEXRail Project. ***The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.***

The Council moved from the Council Chambers into the Pre-Council Room to begin the budget workshop at 7:26 p.m.

- Discussion on Upcoming Budgetary Issues and Priorities for FY 2015-16.

Mayor Averitt opened the Work Shop and Fire Chief Steve Ross provided information regarding the overtime data on the Fire Department, which included the time needed for a higher degree of training, flooding situations occurring earlier in the year, and the increase in job injuries that resulted in light-work duties being administered. A discussion on the shifting of certain job duties and the possible landscaping work response from the firefighters was held.

Public Works Director Greg Van Nieuwenhuize and Sign Technician Jonathan Elliott addressed the Council regarding the traffic signal software and a discussion was held regarding the operations system and camera enhancement. Also included in the discussion was the possible addition of another system and the possibility of securing funding from the Red-Light Camera Fund. More information regarding this item will be presented at the next budget workshop.

The discussion of the position of the Public Safety Director with the current years of experience by both Police Chief Keith Lane and Fire Chief Steve Ross was held, along with the positioning of the Code Enforcement Department.

The dates for the next budget workshops were set for Saturday, September 5th and Tuesday, September 9th.

A discussion regarding the position of the Business Development Coordinator was held, which included the possible elimination of that position in lieu of an economic development firm or an EDC Director. Also discussed was the moving of the D. R. Horton business from Fort Worth to Arlington and the promotion of the EDC development locations. The position of the Public Safety Director was discussed further, along with the dates scheduled for the budget approval, and the completion of work on the turn lanes on the backage roads.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Averitt adjourned the Budget Workshop at 9:27 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:



Art Camacho, City Secretary

APPROVED BY:



David Averitt, Mayor

