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"Crossroads to the Metroplex"

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**September 15th, 2015**

Mayor Michelle Pittman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and announced a quorum. Council Members present were Jo Ann Wilson, Ronnie Moore, and Tim Robison.

Staff Present: City Secretary Angie Young

Citizen David Wilson gave the invocation and Mayor Pittman led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

**Old Business**

Mayor Pittman administers the Statement of Officer and the Oath of Office to Jeff Becraft.

Mayor Pittman announced that we would have a brief matter of housekeeping on the action on the City Attorney. Council Member Wilson made a motion to appoint the firm Taylor, Olsen, Adkins, Sralla, Elam, L.L.P. to be the city’s attorneys; and for Casey Polhemus to be the city prosecutor for October, November, and December as contract labor. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried. Mayor Pittman asked for contact information on for the new attorneys.

**Public Hearing**

At 7:07pm Mayor Pittman opened the Public Hearing on the tax rate. Citizen Deborah Becraft noted there had not been a tax increase in years and she is in favor of an increase. Sam Eason would like to see taxes rolled back and no increase without a master plan. Steven Ike also spoke on the tax rate and believes the citizens should benefit from the bond that was paid off with lower taxes. There being no further discussion Mayor Pittman closed the Public Hearing on the 201516 Tax Rate at 7:13pm.

At 7:13 Mayor Pittman opened the Budget Hearing. Several citizens spoke on the budget, including Same Eason, Tommie Eason, Karen Sherwin, David Wilson, LeeAnn Crenshaw, Robin Holmes, Amanda Johnson, Cathy Coffey, Nathan Robertson, JR Aaron, Deborah Becraft, Kemp Akeman, Ramah Burns, Julie Weldon, Ronald Kuhleman, LeeAnne Mackowski, and Carmen Hoagland. Several ideas were discussed including reduction in the budget for the number of police vehicles and also in police staff, cut backs in Parks & Recreation, obtaining grants to fund some items, the effect of the Fire Department separating from the city, taking out bonds for streets, buying less expensive police vehicles, no raises for city staff, selling city properties, inclusion of money for a community plan, getting small oans for some things, and bringing businesses to Rhome. There being no further discussion Mayor Pittman closed the Public Hearing at 8:42pm.

**Adjourn**

Council Member Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

 **CERTIFICATION:**

 **Passed and approved on this the 22nd day of September, 2015.**

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 **Michelle Pittman, Mayor**

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 **Angie Young, City Secretary**