

**LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Council present:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Estrada  
Councilmember Kenny Roland  
Councilmember Richard Wieland

Mayor James Bertram  
Councilmember Paul Gomez  
Councilmember Lew White  
Councilmember Richard Banks

**Staff present:**

Vance Rodgers, City Manager  
Jeff Hinson, Finance Director  
Jerry Doyle, Fire Chief  
William Tedford, Police Lieutenant

Connie Ortiz, City Secretary  
M.L. Richards, Electric Superintendent  
Michael Lummus, Police Chief  
Dan Gibson, City Planner

**Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council:** None.

**ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor James Bertram called the special meeting of the Lockhart City Council to order on this date at 6:30 p.m.

**ITEM 2. CITIZENS/VISITORS COMMENTS.**

Mayor Bertram requested citizens to address the Council. There were none.

Mayor Bertram presented a proclamation to the Lockhart Police Department declaring October 6, 2009 as "National Night Out". He stated that the Council meeting for October 6 was rescheduled to Wednesday, October 7, 2009. Lieutenant Tedford informed the citizens about locations where the list of block parties are located.

**ITEM 3-A. CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2009-26 RATIFYING A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY OF LOCKHART.**

Mr. Hinson stated that the Ordinance was required by State law that ratifies the property tax revenues, excluding frozen property values. It requires the comparison of the appraisal rolls from both years and showing the difference in total property tax revenues that would be derived. The increase of property tax would raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$72,639 or 2.7 percent. The 2009 taxable value on the 2009 certified appraisal roll totals \$450,869,607 compared to \$449,296,504 in 2008. An additional \$12,277,495 of taxable value is still under protest.

Mayor Pro-Tem Estrada made a motion to approve Ordinance 2009-26, as presented. Councilmember Roland seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 4-2, with Councilmembers Banks and Gomez opposing.

**ITEM 3-B. CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2009-27 ADOPTING A BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009 FOR THE CITY OF LOCKHART, CALDWELL COUNTY, TEXAS.**

Mr. Hinson stated that the Ordinance provided information regarding the 2009-2010 budget, which included General Fund, Debt Service Fund, Electric Fund, Water Fund, Wastewater Fund, Solid Waste Fund, Airport Fund, Trust and Agency Funds, Miscellaneous Utility Funds, Capital Funds, Special Revenue Funds, and Lockhart Economic Development Corporation. The City of Lockhart budget is a total of \$43,665,873 of which funds are to be spent as allocated in each line item. If the City Manager or staff seeks to change the expenditure of a particular line item over the amount of \$5,000, a budget amendment must be presented to the Council for approval.

Councilmember Banks asked if the Ordinance included a salary increase for non-civil service employees. He stated that he was opposed to the salary increases and that he would vote against the budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Estrada stated that even though he was opposed to the new Animal Shelter, he would vote in favor of the budget since it was the consensus of the Council that it remain in the budget.

Councilmember Roland spoke in favor of salary increases for City employees.

Councilmember Wieland thanked staff for their hard work and for presenting a balanced budget.

Councilmember Roland made a motion to approve Ordinance 2009-27, as presented. Councilmember White seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 5-2, with Councilmembers Banks and Gomez opposing.

**ITEM 3-C. CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2009-28 LEVYING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS (M&O) PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF LOCKHART, TEXAS AND INTEREST AND SINKING (I&S) PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE DEBT SERVICE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY OF LOCKHART FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010, AND APPROPRIATING EACH PART THEREOF FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES.**

Mr. Hinson stated that the tax rate will effectively be raised by 7.2139 percent and would raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a home valued at \$100,000 by approximately \$39.90 and, for debt service obligations of the City of Lockhart interest and sinking property tax is proposed at 11.60 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation.

There was discussion regarding the method to calculate the increase of property taxes for a home as compared to 2008.

Mayor Pro-Tem Estrada made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 70.90 cents per each 100 dollars of property valuation, which is effectively a 3.082291 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilmember White seconded.

Councilmember Wieland requested that a record vote is taken on the tax rate.

RECORD VOTE - the record vote is as follows:

Councilmember Richard Wieland stated that he would vote in FAVOR/FOR of the budget and property tax rate, as presented and explained the reasons that he voted in favor. He commended staff for their work.

Councilmember Kenny Roland stated that he would vote in FAVOR/FOR of the budget and property tax rate, as presented and explained the reasons that he voted in favor. He commended staff for their work.

Councilmember Lew White s stated that he would vote in FAVOR/FOR of the budget and property tax rate, as presented and explained the reasons that he voted in favor. He also commended staff for their work.

Councilmember Paul Gomez stated that he would vote AGAINST/DENY the budget and property tax rate, as presented and explained the reasons that he voted in against it. He also commended staff for their work.

Councilmember Richard Banks stated that he would vote AGAINST/DENY the budget and property tax rate, as presented and explained the reasons that he voted against it. He also commended staff for their work.

Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Estrada stated that he would vote in FAVOR/FOR of the budget and property tax rate, as presented and explained the reasons that he voted in favor. He also commended staff for their work.

Mayor James Bertram stated that he would vote in FAVOR/FOR of the budget and property tax rate, as presented and explained the reasons that he voted in favor. He also commended staff for their work. Mayor Bertram clarified several issues regarding the property tax rate which would be 3.082291 percent.

Mr. Rodgers thanked the Council for their service and cooperation regarding the budget workshop process.

VOTE: The motion carried by a vote of 5-2, with Councilmembers Banks and Gomez opposing.

Mayor Bertram made an announcement regarding a fundraiser at Sirloin Stockade on September 30.

**ITEM 4. ADJOURNMENT.**

Councilmember Wieland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Roland seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2009.


ATTEST:



Connie Ortiz, TRMC, City Secretary



CITY OF LOCKHART

  
James Bertram, Mayor