

KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING | September 14, 2017
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 405 MUNICIPAL DRIVE
SPECIAL SESSION - 5:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brian Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Brian Johnson; Mayor Pro Tem Jan Joplin, Place 5; Rockie Gilley, Place 1; and Sandra Lee, Place 3; **Absent:** Liz Carrington, Place 2; and Kelly Turner, Place 4

Staff: City Manager George Campbell, City Secretary and Communications Coordinator Leslie Galloway, Director of Finance Brady Olsen, HR Director Kelly Cooper, Community Development Director Rachel Roberts, Police Chief Tommy Williams, Fire Chief Mike McMurray, Public Works Director Larry Ledbetter, Public Works Superintendent Larry Hoover, Library Director Amanda King, EDC Director Jack Thompson, and Police Captain Darrel Hull

III. REGULAR SESSION

A. Public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Tax Rate

1. Staff Presentation

Director of Finance Brady Olsen offered an overview of the Proposed FY17-18 Tax Rate:

- Current Tax Rate: \$.767500/\$100
- Proposed Tax Rate: \$.787500/\$100
- Maximum Rate Council Can Adopt: \$.802718/\$100
- Rollback Tax Rate: \$.802719/\$100
- Effective Tax Rate: \$.726967/\$100

2. Public Hearing

- **Andrew Schaeffer, 3409 Woodside Dr., Arlington**, spoke in favor of the tax rate increase and new housing development in the southwest portion of the city.
- **Kenneth Johnson, 1056 Estates Dr.**, spoke in favor of the tax rate increase, adding that he was against increases to the water bill.
- **Hollis Matthews, 1252 Elmbrook Dr.**, spoke against the tax rate increase, adding that he wished to see EDC momentum slowed and discretionary spending and bonds minimized.
- **Bob Gruenhagen, 913 Shady Vale Dr.**, stated that he hopes Council and staff can compromise to find a balanced budget, and he would like to see a unanimous vote.
- **Kayla Hughes, 1208 Hunters Haven Dr.**, spoke in support of the tax rate increase, adding that the city should take advantage of the opportunity for growth, rather than stagnating.
- **Sandra Childers, 121 W. Mansfield Ave.**, spoke against the tax rate increase, adding that Old Town residents were being priced out of the city.
- **Loree Boyd, 321 W. 3rd St.**, spoke against the tax rate increase, adding that older residents on fixed incomes need to be taken into account.
- **Eric Elam, 349 Kennedale Sublett Rd.**, spoke in favor of the tax rate increase because of the added revenue, especially from commercial properties
- **James Whitt, 126 W Mansfield Ave.**, spoke against the tax rate increase.

- **Mark Babina, 1056 Falcon Nest Dr.**, spoke in favor of the tax rate increase, stating that the added cost was worth the services that it provides.
- **Sheryl Pond, 606 Hilltop Ct.**, spoke against the tax increase, noting that it was in addition to the increase in the utility bill.
- **Chris Pugh, 715 Timberline**, spoke in favor of the tax rate increase, stating that the added cost was worth the services that it provides.
- **Vinita Thomas, 412 W 3rd Street**, spoke against the tax rate increase, adding that development was not necessary and that she would like to see drainage issues addressed.
- **John Clark, 100 Meadowlake Ct.**, spoke in favor of the tax rate increase, noting that the staff had made clear what cuts would result without it. He asked that Council publicly define policy to justify cuts to services they have deemed as non-vital. He concluded by saying that a budget should be based on public policy, rather than personal ideology.
- **Ann Fonteneau, 1043 Fox Wood Dr.**, spoke in favor of the tax rate increase, stating that water rates in smaller cities are higher as there are fewer homes to share in the cost of the system, and asked that Council not lower residents' standard of living in the name of campaign promises. She concluded by saying that our city should take advantage of our location in a large metropolitan area by capitalizing on growth opportunity.
- April Coltharp, 1040 Falcon Creek Dr.; Terry Twomey, 1042 Falcon Nest; Linda Twomey, 1042 Falcon Nest; Donna Herbster, 1154 Falcon Ridge Dr.; Donald Herbster, 1154 Falcon Ridge Dr.; Mark Perkins, 1042 Falcon Creek Dr.; and John Stockton, 1162 Hunters Haven Dr. registered written opinions in favor of the tax rate increase. Martha Elrod, 213 W 5th St. registered a written opinion against the tax rate increase.

3. Staff Response and Summary

There was no additional discussion at this time.

4. Announcement of Date of Vote on Tax Rate

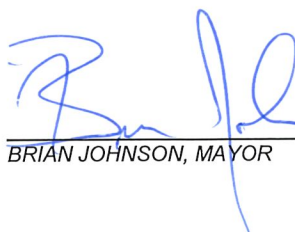
Mayor Brian Johnson announced that the vote on the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 tax rate would be held Monday, September 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in these Council Chambers, in City Hall, located at 405 Municipal Drive, in Kennedale, TX, 76060.

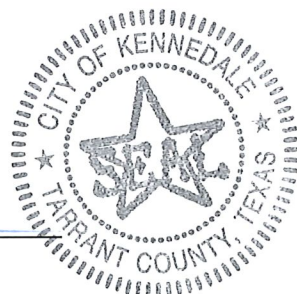
Councilmember Gilley stated that increased valuations must be taken into account, but that an increase is needed to address stagnant salaries, rising health care costs, and maintenance.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To adjourn. **Action** Adjourn, **Moved By** Mayor Pro Tem Jan Joplin, **Seconded By** Rockie Gilley. **Motion passed Unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVED:


BRIAN JOHNSON, MAYOR



ATTEST:


LESLIE GALLOWAY, CITY SECRETARY