

FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7

Minutes for the special Meeting of August 20, 2024

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM by Commissioner Lopez at the District Fire Station, 1834 W. Sycamore, Fresno, TX. The Commissioners in attendance were **Freddy Lopez, Sr., Barbara Hamilton, Janet McClain,** and **Ruston Hughes.** Additional person present were: Office Manager Esmeralda Mendez; Assistant Fire Chief Tom Henderson; District Legal Counsel John Peeler of Coveler & Peeler, P.C.; Melissa Wiggins of Coveler & Peeler, P.C.; Justin Wagoner of Touchstone District Services; District Bookkeeper Mark Miller of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P. (via phone); and Maryann Guirguis and Ricardo Martinez of Martinez Architects.
2. **TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING/OPEN FORUM TO ALLOW INTERESTED PARTIES TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND BE HEARD REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE SETTING.** The Board opened the floor to public comment, though none was forthcoming.
3. **CONCLUDE PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE.** There being no public comment, the Board unanimously agreed to conclude the Public Hearing on the District's tax increase.
4. **TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT 2025 BUDGET.** At this time, the Board was advised that no changes were made to the proposed budget for 2025. After review, a Motion was made by **Commissioner McClain,** and seconded by **Commissioner Hamilton** to adopt the District's 2025 budget as presented. The Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.
5. **TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT 2024 AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.** The Board next reviewed information related to the District's potential 2024 tax rate, including the material published in the Notice of Public hearing. After review, a Motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes,** and seconded by **Commissioner Hamilton,** to adopt the District's M&O rate of \$0.085145/\$100. The Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.
6. **TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT 2024 AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR DEBT SERVICE.** The Board next reviewed figures to adopt the District's tax rate for debt service for 2024. After review, a Motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes,** and seconded by **Commissioner McClain,** to adopt the District's 2024 tax rate for debt service at a rate of \$0.014855/\$100. The Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.
7. **TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT 2024 TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX RATE.** The Board then discussed the District's overall 2024 ad valorem tax rate. After review, a Motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes,** seconded by **Commissioner Hamilton,** to increase the ad valorem tax rate by the adoption of a rate of \$0.100000/\$100 valuation, which is

effectively an 8.95 percent increase in the tax rate. The Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

8. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.


Janet McClain, Secretary