

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of the City of Freeport met for a Tax Rate Hearing on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, for the purpose of considering the 2017-2018 proposed tax rate:

City Council: Mayor Troy T. Brimage – Absent  
Councilman Larry L. McDonald  
Councilman Brooks Bass  
Councilwoman Nicole Mireles  
Councilman Roy E. Yates

Staff: Gilbert Arispe, Assistant City Manger  
Delia Munoz, City Secretary  
Nat Hickey, Property Manager  
Bob Welch, Finance Director

Visitors: Larry Fansher Ruben Renobato  
Doug Domingues Ty Morrow  
Melanie Oldham

Call to order.

Mayor Pro Tem Larry McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**First Tax Rate Public Hearing** on the adoption of a proposed tax rate and consider a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of .628005 which is effectively a 5.89 percent increase in the tax rate.

Mayor Pro Tem Larry McDonald opened the First Tax Rate Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Gilbert Arispe Assistant City Manager reviewed the Tax Rate Analysis:

	2016-2017	2017-2018
Tax Rate:	0.628005	0.628005
Taxable Value	\$407,085,943	\$427,819,975
Tax Levy	\$2,556, 521	\$2,686,731

For additional information to contact the City Manager. Councilman Roy Yates asked if anybody had send emails. If there were any comments or questions. Delia Munoz City Secretary answered no.

Larry Fansher of 1630 W. 10<sup>th</sup> asked for clarification on the amount of increased salaries. He asked if that included the pension benefits as well as the social security matching portion that the city is obligated to pay and how much additional and the percentage.

Mr. Arispe said he would get him clarification.

Councilman Yates said he did not understand the pay scale matrix and would like to see some research and comparisons on wages.

Melanie Oldham said that the budget never has the salaries broken down. She feels that for the size of the City those department supervisors are getting paid very well. The City and the EDC budget are blended and asked why the City is paying Kennemer, Masters & Lunford \$15,000 and EDC pays them \$9,000.00 and have not done an audit. She suggested getting a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit and report back to council. She has water monitor reports from Dow on the Golf Course that could have been negotiated for more than \$8,000,000. About 2 years ago Mr. Pynes announced a 3.8 million for infrastructure, in the budget there is less than a million. She commented that she is not a CPA and hard to understand where the funds went to.

Ruben Renobato stated that the Council needs a better understanding of the financial picture.

Councilwoman Mireles stated that in the past during the budget they were able to carry a dialogue with the department heads on their needs.

Gilbert Arispe stated that emails were welcomed to the City Manager on questions and comments.

Announcement: Second Tax Rate Public Hearing on a proposed tax rate will be conducted on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport Texas and the adoption of the Tax Rate for fiscal year 2017-2018 on Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

Mayor Pro Tem Larry McDonald made the above announcement.

### Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Mireles, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting "Aye", Mayor Pro Tem Larry McDonald closed the meeting at 6:27 pm.

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Mayor Troy T. Brimage  
City of Freeport, Texas

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City Secretary Delia Munoz  
City of Freeport, Texas

