1829 Sam Houston
Liberty, TX 77575
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Dianne Tidwell
City Secretary
(936) 336-3684

The City of Liberty
City Council
Special Called Meeting
~ Minutes ~

Tuesday, August 25, 2009 | **6:00 PM** | **City Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order on August 25, 2009 at the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston, Liberty,TX at 6:05 PM by Mayor Carl Pickett.

II. INVOCATION

Mayor Pickett dispensed with the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pickett dispensed with the Pledge to the American and Texas flags.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pickett welcomed guests and visitors, opening the floor for public comment to those individuals wishing to address the Council, regarding non-agenda items. There were no comments from the audience.

Mayor Pickett reported on the following:

- TML Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas - October 20-23, 2009
- Electric Dept. - new Backyard Alley Machine in the parking lot for viewing

V. CONSENT AGENDA

All consent items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, and if such a request is made, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in a normal sequence on the agenda.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Louie Potetz, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, Potetz, Jordan
ABSENT:	Mike McCarty, Al Simonson

A. Council Action 2009-70

Consider Approval of an Interlocal Agreement with the Liberty Independent School District for a School Resource Officer.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment #1 - SRO Agreement 2009 (PDF)

B. Resolution 2009-11

Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application for the Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Grant, for New Technology Equipment.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Public Hearing 2009-1

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

At 6:08 p.m., Mayor Pickett opened the Public Hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Discussion was held regarding various departments and their fund balances, surplus funds, and maintaining the current tax rate of $.5900. Discussion was also held relative to the recent Waters Consulting Pay Plan and possibly putting into effect the various steps of that plan.

At 6:19 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Public Hearing on the proposed budget.

2. Council Action 2009-71

Consider Postponement of Final Vote on the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Until September 8, 2009.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion was made to postpone the final vote on the budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, until September 8, 2009.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, Potetz, Jordan
ABSENT:	Mike McCarty, Al Simonson

3. Public Hearing 2009-2

Proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

At 6:20 p.m., Mayor Pickett opened the Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate. A brief discussion was held regarding keeping the tax rate between the current rate of $.5900 and the effective rate of $.6228. By maintaining a tax rate of $.5900, this provides an approximate 4.7% reduction in revenues of approximately $144,000. In light of the condition of the economy, Council discussed leaving the tax rate at $.5900.

At 6:25 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate.

VII. WORK SESSION

A. Work Session 2009-9

Discussion of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

A work session was held for discussion of issues relative to the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Topics reviewed were transfers from the electric fund, capital expenditures, proposed sources of additional revenue (i.e. false alarm fees, increased ambulance fees, etc.), personnel, and other related topics. Also reviewed were the salary adjustment steps and various options for putting those steps into effect.

Also discussed was the issuance of Certificates of Obligation for the city's portion of the Cultural Center expansion, a sidewalk program, construction costs for the new Police Department, bell tower, and city garage.

At the conclusion of the work session, Council directed Interim City Manager Larry Shaw to include in the proposed budget the figures for implementing salary adjustments 1, 2, and 3, as prepared by the Waters Group, effective October 1, 2009. The Police Department's request for additional personnel (one officer, one dispatcher, and one part-time for Animal Control) will be delayed until January 1, 2010.

VIII. COUNCIL MEAL

Council shared an evening meal.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, Potetz, Jordan
ABSENT:	Mike McCarty, Al Simonson

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary