

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 21st DAY of AUGUST, 2014, Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, met at a public hearing with the following present:

ROBERT E. HEBERT	COUNTY JUDGE
RICHARD MORRISON	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1
GRADY PRESTAGE	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
ANDY MEYERS	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3
JAMES PATTERSON	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
SHERRY FISK for DIANNE WILSON	COUNTY CLERK

Drainage District special meeting held concurrently.

When the following were heard and the following orders were passed:

1. Call to Order.

Call to Order by Judge Hebert at 5:30 p.m.

2. Conduct a Public Hearing on the proposal to increase the 2014 Tax Rate for Fort Bend County.

Public hearing held. One public comment.

Dana Atkinson questioned the budget and tax rate increase. He used the City of Richmond tax rate as an example and asked for restraint in increases.

Commissioner Patterson stated that from 2010 - 2013 the county has grown by 62,000 people and only 11,000 are within city limits. The major growth is in unincorporated Fort Bend County and the reason for increases.

Judge Hebert explained that since 1995 the tax rate has been reduced by 17¢ for a savings of \$72 million per year to the taxpayers. The urban population demanding services is larger than the total city populations in Fort Bend County. Cities receive sales tax and property tax and the County government runs on property tax only.

Commissioner Meyers explained that state mandates are about 65% of the budget and are required by Texas laws. Counties fund almost the entire justice system in Texas. Fort Bend County is the only county in Texas that has a county wide drainage system, EMS and libraries. County taxes are about 15% of a property owners tax bill.

3. Adjournment.

The public hearing adjourned at 5:50 p.m. on Thursday, August 21, 2014.