

**MINUTES**

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 13TH DAY of SEPTEMBER, 2017, Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, met at a public hearing with the following present:

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| ROBERT E. HEBERT | COUNTY JUDGE            |
| VINCENT MORALES  | COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1 |
| GRADY PRESTAGE   | COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2 |
| ANDY MEYERS      | COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3 |
| JAMES PATTERSON  | COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4 |
| LAURA RICHARD    | COUNTY CLERK            |

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.

Judge Hebert clarified under the law passed by the state legislature, if there is a 1¢ increase in our revenue collected year over year, the County must declare this as a tax rate increase. The County is not increasing the tax rate. To go into effect next year, the legislature corrected the wording to an increase in revenue; rather than a tax rate increase. The County is reducing the tax rate by 1/2¢.

Commissioner Meyers also made a clarification. The reduction of a 1/2¢ tax rate by this Commissioners Court will reduce the amount of taxes the County receives. Under the current law, there is an artificial construct that the state requires the County to go through to eliminate or penalize the participation that the Counties do with the Cities with regard to the tax increment reinvestment zones.

2. **Conduct a Public Hearing on the proposal to increase the 2017 Tax Rate for Fort Bend County.**

Public hearing held. There were five public comments.

David Vrshek, 1006 Cleistes Lane, Richmond, thanked the court for doing a great job on keeping the tax rate down.

Steve Spears, Weston Lakes, questioned how the County will separate the impact of the hurricane, if the intention is to have an increase in taxes, as Harris County.

Cheryl Stalinsky, 32410 Watersmeet Street, Weston Lakes, concerned for those who did not sustain flood damage on their homes and what will occur with the appraisal value. Ms. Stalinsky is also concerned about drainage in her area.

Jeff Sorocak, Weston Lakes, thanked the Court, Sheriffs and Constables for the great job they did during Hurricane Harvey. He questioned the budgeted flood property number from last year to the actual number, the actual property tax revenue for last year and this year, and the effect of the 2017 mobility bond project on the future of the overall tax rate and if the County can easily absorb the damages from Harvey, with the surplus; then why wouldn't the tax rate be reduced further if there were no Harvey.

Dean Forbes, Firethorne, thanked the Court and police officers during Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Forbes stated the City of Katy has reduced their tax rate for the last five years. His concern is the appraisal district increasing their rate.

3. **Adjournment.**

Commissioners Court Public Hearing adjourned at 6:21 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, 2017.



**I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.**

*Laura Richard*

**Laura Richard, County Clerk, Fort Bend County, Texas**