

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Monday, October 2, 2017

A hearing of the City Council was called as authorized by Motion 2017-0562, adopted September 13, 2017, on the Proposed Tax Rate with Mayor Turner, Sameera Mahendru, Legal Department and Marta Crinejo Agenda Director, Agenda Office present. Council Members Brenda Stardig, Jerry Davis, Ellen Cohen, Dwight Boykins, Dave Martin, Steve Le, Greg Travis, Karla Cisneros, Robert Gallegos, Mike Laster, Larry Green, Mike Knox, David Robinson, Michael Kubosh, Amanda Edwards and Jack Christie absent.

At 6:02 p.m. Mayor Turner stated that the hearing had been called relative to a Proposed Tax Rate increase and inasmuch as funding had been received and the Tax Increase will not be necessary and a hearing is not required; however, a person had requested to be heard:

Ms. Janet Vander Lee, 915 East 27th St., no phone, had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called.

Mayor Turner ask if there was anyone present to be heard on the matter and no one was present to be heard.

The City Secretary read the following statement:

"The vote to adopt a Property Tax Rate for the City of Houston for 2017 will be considered at the City Council meeting to be conducted in City Council Chamber, 2nd floor, City Hall, 901 Bagby on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 convening at 9:00 a.m."

At 6:04 p.m. the Hearing was completed and The City Council was recessed until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 3, 2017.

A regular meeting of the Houston City Council reconvened at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 3, 2017; Mayor Sylvester Turner presiding, with Council Members Brenda Stardig, Ellen Cohen, Dave Martin, Steve Le, Greg Travis, Karla Cisneros, Robert Gallegos, Mike Laster, Mike Knox, David Robinson, Michael Kubosh, Amanda Edwards and Jack Christie D.C.; Randy Zamora, Legal Department, Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director and Stella Ortega Agenda Office present. Council Member Dwight Boykins absent on personal business. Council Members Jerry Davis and Larry Green absent on city business.

At 1:36 p.m. Mayor Turner called the meeting to order and stated they would start the presentations. Council Members Martin, Le, Travis, Laster, Robinson and Edwards absent.

Mayor Turner stated that he wanted everyone to be aware that there is a temporary housing on McKinney Street if Council Members would like to go and take a look at it as it may be a possible temporary housing for families that were flooded and would be living in and for them to be free to take a look at it and be free to share their thoughts on it.

Mayor Turner stated that Johnny Mata is the recipient of the 2017 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award, he has dedicated his lifetime preserving and making contributions for the betterment of the Latino community and Johnny Mata served in the U.S. Army, during which time he was posted in Germany and after his discharge in 1968, he moved to Houston, that same year, he joined the staff of the Gulf Coast Community Services Association, where he proudly worked for 32 years until his retirement in June of 2000 and Johnny Mata's commitment

to a life of service manifested in the creation of the Latino Learning Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization that he cofounded in 1979 to provide low-income clients in Houston with vocational training and other vital assistance. He also founded the Greater Houston Coalition for Justice (GHCFJ) in 1999, an umbrella group of over 25 civil rights and advocacy groups with a mission to pursue greater human rights awareness and address both perceived and real deficiencies within the greater Houston regional criminal justice system, in 2016, Johnny Mata and the GHCFJ were instrumental in reforming the Texas Grand Jury System, where the grand juries failed to accurately represent the diverse population of Texas, by restructuring the way jury commissioners select prospective grand jurors through HB 262 and the City of Houston commends Johnny Mata for his outstanding dedication as a leader in the Hispanic community and wishes him continuous success in all of his future endeavors and therefore, I honor Johnny Mata with the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award for the City of Houston and proclaim October 3, 2017, as Johnny Mata Day in Houston, Texas. Council Members Martin, Le, Travis and Edwards absent.

Council Member Cohen stated that The Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC) was founded by a group of dedicated volunteers in 1977 committing to supporting women and children affected by domestic and sexual violence, HAWC has helped countless survivors of domestic and sexual violence restore hope and healing, expanding to several programs including shelter, counseling, advocacy and outreach and every year, HAWC helps nearly 56,000 adults and children in their efforts to move their lives forward. In addition, 24,000 adults and children are assisted through its education and prevention initiatives and on any given day, more than 110 people call the HAWC's 24-hour hotlines and on October 9, 2017, HAWC will celebrate its 40 years of supporting survivors in its vision to end domestic and sexual violence for all and the City of Houston commends the Houston Area Women's Center for assisting individuals in need and extends best wishes to all for a memorable event and therefore, Mayor Turner hereby proclaimed October 9, 2017, as Houston Area Women's Center Day 40th Anniversary in Houston, Texas. Council Members Martin and Travis absent.

Council Member Knox stated that More than 20,000 Houston-area students in pre-K through high school, need glasses and do not have them, committed to providing a solution to this problem, Dr. Irving C. Wishnow and a group of dedicated community leaders founded Eye Care for Kids Foundation and Since 1998, Eye Care for Kids Foundation connects children with volunteer doctors near their home or school for free eye exams and glasses and the foundation and its 100 partner doctors have helped 40,000 children get free vision works and working with schools and school nurses in 50 area school districts, the screening program tested the vision of 35,000 students last school year and has been screening four schools a day since the start of this school year and on October 2, 2017, the Eye Care for Kids Foundation will host its 20th anniversary celebration and the City of Houston commends Eye Care for Kids Foundation for its accomplishments and achievements and extends best wishes to all for a memorable 20th anniversary celebration and therefore, Mayor Turner hereby proclaimed October 2, 2017, as Eye Care for Kids Foundation Day 20th Anniversary in Houston, Texas.

Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Christie for the invocation and he invited Senior Pastor Jim Burchfield to offer the invocation and Council Member Christie led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Knox absent.

At 2:08 p.m. The Roll was called. Council Member Dwight Boykins absent on personal business. Council Members Jerry Davis and Larry Green absent on city business.

Council Member Cohen moved to adopt the minutes of the September 26, 27, 2017 delay adoption of the balance of the minutes and seconded by Council Member Stardig, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION ADOPTED**

Mayor Turner stated that before he goes to recognize Council Members with procedural motions and he wanted to mention again that there is a housing module that is outside on McKinney Street that people are wanting people to take a look at for homes that may not be habitable right now while they are rebuilt to become habitable and they should be there until 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. and they will be more than happy to speak to anyone about it.

Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Le for a procedural motion; Council Member Le moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of hearing Mr. Truc Ho out of order and seconded by Council Member Kubosh, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0595 ADOPTED**

Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Kubosh for a procedural motion; Council Member Kubosh moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of adding Mr. Michael Huffmaster to the list of speakers and to hear Ms. Tomaro Bell and Ms. Jane West out of order and seconded by Council Member Le, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0596 ADOPTED**

Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Christie for a procedural motion; Council Member Christie moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of hearing Mr. Carl Ducena, Ms. Tina Chandler and Ms. Thelma Scott out of order and seconded by Council Member Kubosh, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0597 ADOPTED**

At 2:11 p.m. Mayor Turner requested the City Secretary to call the List of Speakers.

Mr. Truc Ho, 10517 Garden Grove Blvd, Garden Grove, CA, 92843, (714)636-1121 appeared and stated dear Houston, they give their hearts in the time of the suffering and disaster and in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, their Organization raised from their community and as of today \$900,000 and on behalf of those who stepped up, they have donated \$300,000 for Habitat for Humanity and \$300,000 to the Greater Houston Community Foundation and they have learned what it means to extend their hands when they came to America and today with their community they have extended their hands and love for one another to share in the suffering from Hurricane Harvey and they are here to stand with Houston, to stand with their Community and to stand with love.

Council Member Stardig moved that rules be suspended for the purpose to allow Mayor Turner to take a picture with Mr. Truc Ho to accept a check for Hurricane Harvey recovery and seconded by Council Member Cohen, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0598 ADOPTED**

Mayor Turner accepted the checks from Mr. Ho and his community for donating the money and pictures were taken.

Council Member Le stated that he would like to recognize his wife and his parents that are in the audience today and requested Mr. Ho speak and he did not know Mr. Ho before this and he reached out to him less than a week ago and requested for him to come to Houston to present a check and Mr. Ho is a resident of California and through his network of Television was able to raise a total of \$900,000.00 and he requested to Mr. Ho to give at least 2 to 3 weeks to prepare a Proclamation and collected as that the people of Houston need it know and he told him he

wants to come and present the check however, he can and he does not need the recognition more than the people need the money, so he came as a speaker and he thanked Mr. Ho very much for thinking of the people in Houston during the time of our needs.

Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Gallegos for a point of personal privilege, Council Member Gallegos stated that he has the pleasure of introducing a couple of visiting Council Members from the City of San Cruz of California and thanked them for visiting Houston.

Mr. Michael Huffmaster, no address, no phone, appeared and stated that on behalf of the Alliance and himself, thank you for leading Houston on the post Harvey period and this week will mark the 40th day of Harvey and he thinks he has a new perspective on the Biblical story of the 40 days in the wilderness and for them leading them forward and it give them hope, just like Mr. Ho's generosity and just as the wonderful response of the citizens of Houston to help their neighbors and he wanted to thank the Governor of Texas for the \$50 million dollars that Mayor Turner fought to obtain for helping Houston recover, to begin the debris pickup and he knew personally the debris that was piled over his head and had been removed and he wanted to thank Council Member Travis for getting that removed and they know that they are fortunate and he knows that there are many people that have debris still in their yard and there had been many other storms that prompted the development of the Addick's and the Barker reservoirs to protect Houston and most recently Tropical Allison, in the events of 2009, the Memorial Day Flood and Tax Day Flood and he does not know what to recommend in the design but moving forward in the City of Houston to be resilient must contemplate and evaluate the impacts of storms like these on our City infrastructure and on the citizens and he ask them to take that with them as they move forward into recovery. Council Members Martin, Le and Gallegos absent.

Members of Council questioned Mr. Huffmaster.

Ms. Jane West, 2114 Lubbock, 77007, (832)721-9080 appeared and stated that she will take less than 3 minutes and she is here to reiterate on what Mr. Huffmaster stated and thanked the Mayor for meeting with them and always keeping a door open when it comes to the concerns of the Super Neighborhood Councils and the Alliances and she also here to speak in support of Item 27 it is a great example on how the community brought a problem and emergency issue at the CIP hearing that was earlier this year, they were able to work effectively with their Council Member Cisneros and all the other Council Members that were there at the meeting to get this project moving forward, they have worked with their TIRZ Board and this is a great example how our Elected Officials have worked effectively with their Administrations, the Mayor and the Acting Director of Public Works and please support this Item. Council Members Martin, Le and Gallegos absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. West at length.

Ms. Tomaro Bell, no address, no phone, appeared and stated that her topic is gratitude and she wanted to thank everyone around the horseshoe and a special thanks to the Mayor for working with Governor Abbott to get the necessary funds that we needed and thank him for meeting with them on Monday and the Super Neighborhood appreciates the time with him and the Council Members for calling them and as they call them and it does take team work and she has been a bragging mother her son is here from California and he came down here volunteering during and after Harvey and he is Houston Constant for the new season of Fear Factor and it is starting shooting in a week and they were selected for this season on Fear Factor and thanked Council Member Stardig on speaking out about the poles in the middle of the sidewalk as well. Council Members Martin, Le and Gallegos absent.

Mayor Turner stated to Ms. Bell that if he is her son, he should do very well.

Ms. Lee Roder, 714 Sabine St., 77007, (718)839-4538 appeared and stated that she is here to speak on Item 27 on the reconstruction on Sabine Street in the Old 6th Ward and she is here to acknowledge all the work that all of the groups have done and it is truly amazing that the TIRZ group has been able to come together with the City and to put together a package to solve what has been a problem that they have been dealing with and that depends on who they talk to for about 40 years and they are so hopeful that it will get its final approval and it is a credit to the City of Houston, to this Administration, to this Mayor because they were willing to take the difficult road to do what is right and the systems that is underneath the street that is over a 100 years old and is failing but to take the difficult road to work to restoring a piece of history and they are leaving something for the future and that is so important to the City and our future. Council Members Martin, Le, Gallegos, Laster and Kubosh absent.

Dr. Alkebu Motapa, 5022 Cosby, 77021, (713)741-5150 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Martin, Le, Gallegos, Laster and Kubosh absent

Mr. Edwin Marquez, no address, (713)320-6512 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Martin, Le, Gallegos, Laster and Kubosh absent

Mr. Robert Reid, no address, (832)405-5054 appeared and stated that he wanted to first thank each of the Council Members for the work that they are doing and today he is here on behalf of Barbara Jordan Endeavors, they are having a Free Family Fun Day which is at Dyer Stadium at 2020 Mangum and please forgive them for bring this so late because they did not know where to tell the families to go to because the kids were not in school and were unable to reach out and introduced the individuals that were standing behind him and what they are doing at this time which they have flyers that they are handing out and they have been at Greenspoint Mall because that is where he lives, they are bring the buses out and they have spoken to the Superintendent of HISD and he is with them and they are looking for some support for whatever the City Council can provide, security is one but there is no question that they have the vendors, free food and it is not costing anyone anything and they would like the City Council to reach out to Ms. Scott to ask her what they can do and he is saying that he is enjoying this and he is enjoying working with Barbara Jordan Endeavors kids that have been bullied, some try to commit suicide and they really want to bring everyone to get involved. Council Members Martin, Le, Gallegos, Laster and Kubosh absent

Members of Council questioned and thanked Mr. Reid for being present.

Ms. Pauline Clement, 4731 Brownstone Ln., 77053, (832)731-6712 appeared and stated she did not want to over kill on the information but in regards to the Free Family Fun Day they would like to extend an invitation to any Members that would like to participate at any compacity with any resource that are available for the kids in shelters, eating different foods, playing in a different place that they would not normal play, in an environment that they would not normally be in and seeing things that they normally would not see and on behalf of the Barbara Jordan Endeavors that has a history in participating in the community with suicide prevention, in mental and wellness and diversity they would asked that they all try to extend any resources or assistances in support by attending the event on behalf of the Barbara Jordan Endeavors. Council Members Martin, Le, Gallegos and Kubosh absent.