

**CITY OF COPPERAS COVE  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 24, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor, Roger P. O'Dwyer called the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove Texas to order at 7:00 p.m.

**B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Gatewood gave the Invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ROLL CALL**

**ALSO PRESENT**

Bob Reeves  
Larry D. Sheppard  
John Gallen  
James Stockman  
R. Ray Gatewood  
Fred Harris  
Frank D. Somera, Jr.

Steven J. Alexander, City Manager  
James R. Thompson, City Attorney  
Jane Lees, City Secretary

**D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Council Member Stockman.  
Military Order of the Purple Heart will have an unveiling of the Purple Heart Trail at the Junction of I-35 and 195 South, at 9:00 a.m. on September 2, 2006. The public is invited to attend.
- Mayor O'Dwyer.  
Notice of vote on tax rate. The City of Copperas Cove is conducting public hearings on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the City of Copperas Cove on August 24, 2006 and August 29, 2006. The City of Copperas Cove is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in a tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 5, 2006 at city Hall Council chambers, 507 South Main Street, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522.

**E. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Public Hearing on a tax increase for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. **Andrea Gardner, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance**

Andrea Gardner, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance gave an overview of agenda item E-1.

Mayor O'Dwyer opened the Public Hearing.

Speaking:

Diane Steele, 905 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ms. Steele stated that she is happy Council decided to reduce the tax rate to \$ .74, but would like to see the rate even lower. Tax rates and water rates are too high. The City should go ahead and buy the land for the police department and hold on to it for a while before moving forward with the project. A lower rate would give the residents relief and bring businesses here.

Cecil Lindsey, 105 Nauert Street.

He said that taxes are too high and this is running people out of town. He does not feel he should have to pay school taxes because he has no school-aged children. He believes that the City does not need a new police department. The current police department is not utilized properly.

Charles Lindsey, 303 Allen Street.

He stated that taxes and water keep going up and the City needs to stop excessive spending.

Frank DiMuccio, 2314 East Highway 190.

He said that Copperas Cove is a bedroom community to Ft. Hood. Copperas Cove is putting a lot of stress on people by going above the effective tax rate.

Mayor O'Dwyer closed the Public Hearing.

2. Public Hearing on changes to the City Manager's Proposed Budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. **Andrea Gardner, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance**

Andrea Gardner, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance gave an overview of agenda item E-2. She summarized the proposed budget changes as follows:

- 1) an increase to property tax revenues of \$71,403;
- 2) a decrease in projected sales tax revenues of \$40,000;
- 3) an increase in emergency management of \$11,799, which adds an emergency management coordinator position funded for six months;
- 4) an increase of \$10,000 to the Finance Department's budget for appraisal district fees;
- 5) a decrease in the Police Department's budget of \$22,375, which eliminates a patrol officer position that was funded for six months;
- 6) a decrease in the Fire Department's budget of \$15,000 for incentive pay;
- 7) reduces \$33,280 in the Streets Department budget as a result of financing a street sweeper through the seven-year tax note that the City is looking at issuing;
- 8) the Non-Departmental expenses in the General Fund are affected as follows:
  - a. an increase of \$10,000 for public relations;
  - b. a decrease of \$11,312 as a result of an amended request for funding from the HOP;
  - c. an increase of \$30,000 for a marquee sign at City Hall;

- d. an increase of \$29,500 for matching funds for the Federal Hazard Elimination Grant for a traffic light to be installed at Main Street and Avenue B of \$29,500.
- 9) The Hotel/Motel Fund expenses are affected as follows:
- a. an increase of \$11,000 for Cove Country Opry;
  - b. a decrease of \$10,000 for the Joint Image Campaign

Mayor O'Dwyer opened the Public Hearing.

Speaking:

Diane Steele, 905 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

She asked why the surrounding cities pay less money for their water than Copperas Cove residents do, especially when we all get water from the same source. The City cannot justify an increase in water rates for residents and not charge commercial users. She would prefer that \$30,000 go to the Chamber rather than us the money for a sign for City Hall. The survey that was done by the Economic Development Corporation asking citizens about the police station and the recreation center resulted in only 350 people being surveyed. She stated that too much money was spent on the survey.

Cecil Lindsey, 105 Nauert Street.

Stated that his water meter has been under dirt ever since he has owned his home, for 46 years.

Marty Smith, 204 East Robertson Avenue.

She spoke regarding the increase in the Chamber's request this year from \$65,000 to \$95,000, which comes from the City's Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. She said that tourism finance records are accurately kept and always open for inspection. She stated that the Chamber has responsibly utilized all monies it has received by the City. Currently the Chamber gives the Council quarterly reports according to their contract with the City. The Chamber of Commerce is the only entity that promotes tourism on a daily basis for the entire 52 weeks of the year. She would be happy to grant the City's request to have an audit if that is what is required; however, she noted that it would cost the Chamber an enormous amount of money to do that. She said that two new motels are being built in Copperas Cove and that will dramatically increase the Hotel/Motel tax revenue for the City. She thanked the City for the Hotel/Motel tax funds received in the past.

Zack Boyd, 2401 Walker Place.

Stated that he is a new business owner in Copperas Cove and the Chamber has assisted him in many ways. He said that the Chamber would not ask for more than they actually needed and to consider their request for the increase of \$30,000 in funding.

Jim Schmitz, 1324 Eagle Trail.

Stated that the work done by today's Chamber far exceeds the activities of any chamber prior to this. He asked that the Council support the Chamber's request for an increase by granting the additional funding.

Jim Rudd, 2310 Veterans Avenue.

Stated that the Chamber staff is excellent now compared to the way they used to run. To get bigger and better, the Chamber needs to increase their funding.

Mayor O'Dwyer closed the Public Hearing.

There being no further business, Mayor O'Dwyer stated the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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Roger P. O'Dwyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jane Lees, City Secretary