

**MINUTES OF THE  
TOWN COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

**ITEM 1      CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vardell called the regular session to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2009, in the Vivian Cockburn Municipal Building located at 405 Shaffner Street.

**ITEM 2      ROLL CALL**

Those present were Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Rouse, Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman and Mayor Vardell.

**ITEM 3      INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Police Chief Steve Grube led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ITEM 4      MAYOR'S REPORT**

None.

**ITEM 5      CITIZEN INPUT**

No one signed up to speak.

**ITEM 6      CONSENT AGENDA.**

Council Member Ashman moved to approve the February 9, 2009 minutes. Motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 7      CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF PONDER ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND AUDIT FOR THE 2007-08 FISCAL YEAR.**

Carl Deaton, Auditor with Hankins, Eastup, Deaton, Tonn and Seay went over the Town of Ponder Financial Audit with the Council. Mr. Deaton noted that in the Enterprise Fund the revenue stayed somewhat close to last year. Water/Sewer revenue went up but impact fees and connection fees went down. He stated that the Water/Sewer fund needs approximately three months operating reserves and that the fund has a \$163,000 fund balance that covers this.

Mr. Deaton also went over the General Fund, noting that property taxes were up approximately \$50,000, sales tax increased approximately 50%, but that building permits and court revenue was way down. Mr. Deaton stated that expenditures were way down from last year also and that the fund balance in the General Fund is \$304,464 which is seven or eight months of operating funds needed in reserve.

**ITEM 8      CONSIDER AND ACT ON ACCEPTANCE OF A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT FROM THE PONDER BAPTIST CHURCH.**

Council Member Wilkinson moved to accept the public utility easement from the Ponder Baptist Church. Motion seconded by Council Member Ashman. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 9 DISCUSSION REGARDING STORM SIRENS.**

Gary Morris reported that the Council has looked at this item in the past and that there were concerns of who would be responsible for manning the siren. He reported that according to the City of Justin, the sirens cost a minimum of \$25,000 each and that the system to operate the siren is approximately \$14,000. Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman asked that Mr. Morris look into FEMA funds that might pay for a system such as this and the Council would address at a later date.

**ITEM 9A. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 09-01, CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR AND TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR PLACE 2 AND PLACE 4 AND ESTABLISHING DATES AND TIMES OF EARLY VOTING FOR SUCH ELECTION AND ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A RUNOFF ELECTION IF REQUIRED.**

Council Member Wilkinson moved to approved Resolution 09-01. Motion seconded by Council Member Ashman. Council Member Wilkinson amended his motion to include corrections to the date in Section 1 and Section 5. Amendment seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 10 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA.**

None at this time.

**ITEM 11 ADJOURN.**

Council Member Wilkinson moved to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion seconded by Council Member Rouse. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**APPROVED:**

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**Jeff Vardell, Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sheri N. Clearman, City Secretary**