



# MINUTES

## Oak Hill City Council

### Special Meeting

August 21, 2023

The Special Meeting of the Oak Hill City Council was held on August 21, 2023, in the Council Chambers at Oak Hill City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Call to Order**

Mayor Briscoe called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m.

#### **Roll Call**

City Clerk Ronda Falk called the roll; a quorum was present.

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor Charles H. Briscoe  
Council-at-Large Bill Hannabass  
Ward 1 Councilmembers  
    Diana Janney  
    Roger Evans  
    Christa Hodges  
Ward 2 Councilmembers  
    Chris Gill  
    Carlos (PJ) Elder, Jr.  
    Charles Smallwood, Jr.

#### **ALSO Present**

City Manager Damita Johnson  
Attorney James Kelsh  
City Clerk Ronda Falk

#### **Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember Janney led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Purpose of the Meeting**

The mayor announced the reason for the special meeting was to consider approving an ordinance to increase sewer rates.

#### **1. Consideration to Approve an Ordinance to Increase Sewer Rates – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Bowles Rice Attorney James Kelsh informed the council that the Sanitary Board has been operating in the red and is in technical default. The proposed ordinance will bring the Oak Hill Sanitary Board into compliance with its bonds and state law. The attorney described the three-step process of the rate increase as a 10.2 % increase that will take effect 45 days after adoption with a 9.2 % increase going into effect in April 2024. The third increase won't go into effect until the project is complete or the bonds are due. Attorney Kelsh suggested rates should be re-visited at least every three years to make sure you have adequate rates.

#### **Motion – Approve the ordinance to increase sewer rates.**

Motion made by Councilmember Janney. Seconded by Council-at-Large Hannabass.

Discussion: 1) The council discussed the elimination of the surcharge for the former Arbuckle PSD Customers 45 days after the adoption of the ordinance. 2) The Sanitary Board did not meet its coverage for the fiscal year 2021 and began operating in the red in 2022. 3) Statutory requirements were not met due to chemical expenses being beyond the general rate of inflation; the workforce was also a contributing factor. 4) The Sanitary Board is a separate enterprise and cannot co-mingle with other accounts.

**Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

### **Citizens Comments**

Former Councilmember Steve Hayslett questioned why he had to pay for sewer service on his house that was torn down in 2017. Although he continues to have water service at the address for watering his garden, there has been no sewer system at the location since the structure was removed.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:52 p.m.

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Ronda Falk, City Clerk

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Charles Briscoe, Mayor