

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Monday, September 25, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was convened at 6:00 p.m., Monday, September 25, 2017 for the purposed of Conducting a Public Hearing; Mayor Sylvester Turner presiding, with Council Members Brenda Stardig, Jerry Davis, Dwight Boykins, Dave Martin, Karla Cisneros, Robert Gallegos, Mike Laster, Mike Knox, Michael Kubosh, Amanda Edwards and Jack Christie D.C.; Sameera Mahendro, Legal Department and Marta Crinejo Agenda Director and Stella Ortega Agenda Office present. Council Members Ellen Cohen, Steve Le, Greg Travis, Larry Green, Davis Robinson absent.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Turner called this meeting to order for the Public Hearing relating to Public Hearing the Proposed 2017 Tax Rate for Tax Year 2017 of \$ 0.638750/ \$100 of value and thanked all the Council Members that were present.

Mayor Turner stated that this is the first of three Public Hearings on the Proposed Tax Rate and the next one will be on October 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. and the last one will be on October 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m... Council Member Knox absent.

Council Member Kubosh requested a Roll Call and the Roll was called with Council Members Ellen Cohen, Steve Le, Greg Travis, Larry Green, Davis Robinson absent.

Council Member Cisneros stated that there were several people that were unable to sign up to speak and Mayor Turner stated that they would have a signup sheet with the Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office at the door. Council Member Knox absent.

Mayor Turner stated that they would move to the presentation by Financial Director Kelly Dowe.

Director Kelly Dowe and Tantri Emo presented a power point presentation on the Proposed Tax Rate for Tax Year 2017a copy of which is available in the Office of the City Secretary. Council Member Knox absent.

Members of Council questioned Director Dowe and Tantri Emo.

Mayor Turner stated that Senator Paul Bettencourt is on the list of speakers and requested with no objection for him to be first to speak and hearing no objection he would be called first. Council Member Knox absent.

At 6:15 p.m. Mayor Turner requested the City Secretary to call the List of Speakers.

Senator Paul Bettencourt, 13622 Apple Tree, 77079, (713)365-0428 appeared and stated that he has to immediately object of the numbers that the Financial Department used because they are not telling the public the truth and the truth is, that all of the homes on average in the City of Houston have already gone up 5.9% on value of this year and when they look at the calculation that was just brought up on the screen it is not correct, Council Member Christie knows that, it is the appraised value increases times the tax rate increase that equals the tax bill that the people will have to pay and the estimate which he got from the Appraisal District that this was a 5.9% increase on the average Houston home already, so it is disappointing to come to a meeting to see a static picture of a home of \$175,000 to \$225,000 there is no such thing in real life with a rare exception and what has happened before August 31st is that the average home has gone up and regardless of the tax rate that they add or hopefully don't add any increase, the average home was going to pay more no matter what at this point unless there is disaster reappraisal and that

is the only way that the flooded home owners can get a break for this current 2017 tax year that folks have to pay in December and January, so the calculation that he did by using a 5.9% average valuing increase times the tax increase that they estimated Mayor at 60.7 cents but this would be about \$100.00 increase on the average Houston home and why is that important, there was a very good Chronicle story this weekend shows that 52% of all homeowners do not have 3 months of expenses to fall back on, so every \$100.00 matters and he wanted to make it very clear when he sees this type of presentation that does not include the obvious because as a tax assessor and he does not have to repeat this, that if the appraisal goes up and the tax rate stays the same you are going to have to pay more and the proposal is about 10% increase and he does not think they should not kick Houstonians when they are down and that is why he is here.

Mayor Turner stated that he needed to established the rules in this Chamber, they do not allow clapping, not at this time, not during the public comment period, they can wave their hands or they can stand up where they are but the clapping they do not allow.

Senator Paul Bettencourt stated that he also wanted to speak briefly on the disaster reappraisal and why it is important, we have over what they think there are 100,000 structures in the County that have been flooded and clearly there are many homeowners that have effectively been flooded out of their homes and it not just Kingwood, Meyerland, it just not South Houston it can be anywhere. Council Members Le, Travis and Green absent.

Members of Council questioned Senator Bettencourt at length and Mayor Turner stated that he wanted to make the understanding clear before he goes, are you saying that you are committed to voting for the moneys that are needed to build the 3rd reservoir and is he is hearing that you are saying that and Senator Paul Bettencourt stated Mayor, he have sent in on behalf of an informal Harvey caucus which is all the Senators from Rockport to Beaumont and they had a discussion and the number one item was the 3rd reservoir, the second was refurbishing the existing reservoir and the third was the spine and he had publicly said that they need to do what they can to get those 3 items because we are going to need it someday and Mayor Turner then stated that you are in favor of voting to appropriate the necessary dollars to build the 3rd reservoir and Senator Bettencourt stated again they have turned in the list and he is going to let the process work through.

Mayor Turner stated that all he is asking which is a simple question and are you willing to go on record that you would vote to appropriate the necessary funds to build the 3rd reservoir and Senator Paul Bettencourt stated that yes, if it something that he agrees with.

Ms. Alicia Nuzzie, 1510 Wakefield, 77018, (713)446-5906 appeared and stated that she is a homeowner in Oak Forest neighborhood and she really wish she did not have to come down here and she really wishes that they did not have to do this tax rate increase but however, since there has been no help from the Rainy Day Fund, she has to say as a homeowner she is here to express support of the proposed one year Tax Rate increase to help with the recovery due to Hurricane Harvey and she thinks that it is needed and she completely agrees with Mayor Turner that the City's focus should be on debris removal and housing and without funding and reimbursement from our Government Agencies to help with these issues and moving forward will be hindered on recovery. Council Member Knox absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Nuzzie.

Ms. Marian Wright, 709 Dayland, 77009, (713)899-7439 appeared and stated that she is very torn on this issue, she does think that everyone should pay their fair share to help the City out but what really concerns her is that she has seen situations where Council has not been good with our

money, she means that they have wasted money which she can give examples of that, she had spoken to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor Office and they have assured her that the Rainy Day fund will be tapped and they said that the order that comes in is that FEMA comes in first and does their part and then they check with the insurance and then the Rainy Day fund is tapped and why are we pushing this through and making this happen so quickly which she does not understand the rush and she lives in a neighborhood where people move out because of the tax rate increase and it will not affect her personally but it will attack others. Council Member Knox absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Wright and Mayor Turner stated just for information purposes, there was a Bill that went through the Legislature to call for an automatic reappraisal passed out at the House, twice and it never got a hearing in the Senate and was also passed out in the Special Session and then died in the Senate and on the Rainy Day fund they date that they gave was 2019 which is 2 years from now.

Ms. Mindy Smith, 1409 Anita St., 77004, (713)655-1790 appeared and stated that she is not going to speak on anything that Senator Bettencourt already said because those are high level numbers, she just going to read them latest bill which is a 31% increase from 2011-2016, 18% on City Taxes alone and she is not going into the Harris County Flood District or the Schools and by the way to answer some of the question, the City taxes are 25% of this bill and this does not even include her Midtown Management District TIRZ taxes and that is completely separate but that is on top of this and she is over here thinking that we are arguing about Rainy Day Fund but you know what about the Drainage Charges that was added to her water bill years ago that almost doubled it, what about the fact that she has increase taxes across the board including Flood Control, what about the fact that you guys, just over year ago alone got almost 8% more in one year on City Taxes specifically and now you are asking for more and to call this a CAP it almost in insulting, there are other ways that the City gets revenue and who is looking through those, what don't they cut the painting of murals and stuff like that before you come cut my family budget and she does not know many people that will support this and they represent us and please do so. Council Member Laster absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Smith.

Mr. Stewart Kepper, 12114 Boheme Dr., 77024, (713)703-0483 5150 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Member Laster absent.

Ms. Marianne Dawes, 6105 Burning Tree, 77036, (713)302-5090 appeared and stated that Hurricane Harvey had slammed the people of this City but which of us had been hardest hit and the answer is those who own property and we are responsible to rebuild and Mayor Turner proposed Tax hike would further harm those who are suffering the most and if the City of Houston continues to raise these property taxes it would eliminate the middle class and only the wealthy and the government will be able to own property, Mayor Annise Parker brought the rain tax or what is also called the Drainage fee which is 1/3 total of her water bill, that money was supposed to be used to improve drainage which some have been but not nearly all and the money collected from this tax goes to the general fund and she thinks that is dishonest and doesn't the City have it's own Rainy Day Fund or Budget Stabilization Fund and why don't we not use it and not bleeding the tax payers.

Mayor Turner stated that he appreciates Ms. Dawes for being here but he had to tell her that the Rainy Day Fund (ESF) was used and it does not exist and it was used for this Hurricane Recovery Effort and they met at the George R. Brown in the mist of the storm when they could not meet here at City Hall so that Rainy Day Fund is gone.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Dawes.

Ms. Sharon Fisher, 902 Saddle Rock, 77088, (281)448-7437 appeared and stated that she was here 6 days before the flood and now they know she is a prophet because she did describe 6 days later in detail but anyway she is here now for 107 people and she did her own poll, she went first on the other side of 1960, North of 1960, then West of Kuykendal, those people lost heavily and she just went down there to interview people right after Mayor Turner announced the 9% and before he announced the 4% and 14 out of 107 totally agree with the Mayor in the increase of the 9% and 93 people did not agree and several people made comments that she cannot say and some of them felt like they were being taken advantage of the tragedy and she assured everyone that she was going to come down here to tell them that because they cannot come here because they are trying to put their lives back together and she went to another spot and got the same results but when she went on Taylor nobody agree with the Mayor's increase and she wanted to know where the sales tax goes because she is mixed up about that.

Mayor Turner stated that the Sales Tax it goes to the General Fund. Council Member Laster absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Fisher.

Mr. Jost Lunstroth, 620 Woodland, 77009, (832)236-4587 appeared and stated that now is the time for them to step up and be leaders of this great City, the temporary increase is not wanted by anyone but it is needed to help our City to recover from the recent flooding and it is unreasonable to expect a City the size of Houston to be able to cover the extraordinary expenses from the flood while under the Cap and without additional help and it is reasonable that as citizens we are expected to contribute our fair share so that the entire City can recover quickly and it is reasonable that you as the leaders in Houston stand up and take a stand to assure Houstonians that the temporary tax increase is temporary and that they will work together to make sure that the funds are spent correctly and the tax goes away like they promise.

Members of Council questioned Mr. Lunstroth.

Mayor Turner stated the reason that they are having these Public Hearing because we have to make a decision on October 19th and they are obligated to have these Hearing now and that is why we are before them and a decision has to be made by October 19th.

Ms. Cynthia Neely, 403 Hollow Dr., 77024, (713)562-1483 appeared and stated that before they start the clock, she asked when are they going to get the closed captioning fixed and this is a disability act issue that they need to correct because she cannot read lips from behind her and she has not understood half of the stuff that has gone on today and she is not the only one and Council Member Stardig stated that Mayor Pro Tem Cohen and herself had a conversation about that the other day and both of them have made the commitment and to William Paul from the Mayor's Office is very much aware and investigating on making some changes in the Chambers for them and they are willing to use their funds to make that happen and they have to be careful because it is a Historical building and there are limitations.

Ms. Neely further stated that she comes down here with residents against flooding, she is here today because she is a flood victim, she slept in the clothes that she was wearing and their situation is terrible, they have lost 3 cars, their home and their small rental property, they do not have anything and she had to come down here tonight that this idea of raising taxes and even the idea is morally reprehensible, it is cowardly and there are more funds out there, they can find it and it is their job to do so, when people have lost everything they need you to think outside of the

box and especially to think outside of our wallet, it is too early and when she first heard this she was enraged, she lives in the Memorial TIRZ area, they have \$72 million dollars in funding right now and they gave \$23 million dollars of their tax money away to beautified detention basins that their tenants happen to look down on, they cannot even see from the road and she have gone to the TIRZ meeting as many times as she can. Council Members Boykins, Martin and Knox absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Neely.

Ms. Stephanie Thomas, 426 N. Hutchinson St., 77003, (832)840-6464 appeared and stated that she is here to represent Public Citizens which is the organization that she works for and they believe that the City of Houston should exhaust other opinions before raising peoples taxes because they are really hurting here and she does appreciate all the efforts that have been made in trying to tap into the Rainy Day Fund and one of the things that she would like to mention the loss of vehicles and this could be an opportunity to promote low emission vehicles and they also believe that the City should levy the tax not on the victims of the flooding but on the industries that have helped create this situation and again not to tax the people that were affected by this but taxing the people who been responsible for this. Council Member Martin absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Thomas.

Ms. Leticia Ablaza, 3914 Leeland St., 77003, (713)528-3779 appeared and stated that she is the Out Reach Director for Air Lines Houston and she wanted to say her personal terms on the tax and hearing what she had heard today she is more than willing to pay her fair share of \$40.00 to help clean up her City, she volunteered tirelessly and she was there before the Red Cross was there, her friends, her children and herself were very concerned about the pets that were being left behind, she was not affected other than some minor damaged to her house and she does not know how people that were affected by the flooding from excluding paying the increase in the taxes and she is willing to by double if she had too to help those that need it and that was her personal opinion but on behalf of Airline Alliance, she wanted to talk about holding industry responsible for contaminating our water and soil and obviously being a part of what has happened to the City and reports have come out saying that flooded water was contaminated and yet we saw picture and footage of in people in the water and children playing in the waters. Council Member Martin absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Ablaza.

Ms. Julie Grothues, 4330 Birchcroft, 77088, (832)687-3864 appeared and stated that she lives on the Northwest side in the Inwood Forest which is in District A and she is here to speak in favor of the proposed temporary tax increase to help cover the cost because of Hurricane Harvey and there are couple items that she would like to address because she knows there are a lot of miscommunication in her neighborhood with some retired people, she does tax work, she is a CPA and she does a lot of tax work for individuals and she is familiar with people that are over 65 pay or do not pay in the City of Houston property taxes and Inwood Forest most of their homeowners that are 65 and older pay no property taxes to either the City of Houston or Harris County due to exemptions and they will pay any tax increase and home values in their areas are normally around \$140,000 to \$160,000 dollars and those are the exemptions for 65 and reduces their taxable income to zero and she also checked around neighborhoods such as the Mayor's area that is next to her and a retired homeowner with \$286,000 dollars appraised property value is paying tax of about \$70,000 dollar value after exemptions and in Oak Forest, a homeowner with \$223,000 dollars taxable value is paying took about \$19,000 dollars after exemptions and the appraisal cap and she would urged all retired taxpayers and she is not picking on them but would like to point out to check out HCAD to see how this would affect them and the other thing

she would like to point out when her house flooded in Tropical Storm Allison at least picked up 40 yards of debris that was in front of her house which she held a pick of a 40 yard debris dumpster and the reason she brings that up because recently her HOA rented one of these and the cost of one about \$575 dollars and she also wanted to point out with the value of her home, her taxes will go up about \$29.00 dollars. Council Members Davis and Martin absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Grothurs.

Mayor Turner stated that he did have a conversation with Public Works last week and he needed to speak with Council Member Stardig about expediting a project in the District with the Inwood Basin and it also pointed out the need for all of us to act with greater urgency and to move quickly.

Ms. Demetria Smith, 1200 Dairy Ashford, 77088, (832)687-3864 appeared and stated that she remembers Mayor Turner on the campaign trail of 2015 when you were wanting to increase property taxes, she remembers that 2 years ago and 2 years later he has this opportunity in a devastating moment and now the young lady that spoke about climate control and she had a report and read the report to Members of Council and this report was of August of 2017 right before Hurricane Harvey and the article was speaking about shouting crystal flares into the clouds to create heavy, heavy storms, Corpus Christie and Rockport had a Hurricane Harvey literally and Houston just had a shower storm and Houston was under water and they were not under water, she spoke about the packets to get help from the Federal level. Council Members Stardig and Martin absent.

After the bell rang Ms. Smith started to yell because no one had any questions for her and refused to move and told the Police Officers to back off and Mayor Turner requested Ms. Smith to leave and requested that the Houston Police to stand down and Ms. Smith continued to yelled.

Ms. Ava Pate, no address, no phone, appeared and stated that she would like to give Mayor Turner credit where credit is due, he did an amazing job during Hurricane Harvey, the whole world was watching Houston and he showed leadership and the reason she is standing here today for herself and the ones that could not be here because they have too much of a burden to restoring what was lost and as a business owner of 20 years, when in order to be successful and instead of borrowing more money and getting further into debt when money ran out was to start cutting cost and in times sacrificing pay by not paying herself for her business to stay above and the only time she would raise her rates was when she had too much business coming in and she believes that the City of Houston can find some way to cut cost and not to raise taxes and she is asking them show mercy in a time when most people are down on their knees because of Hurricane Harvey and this tax increase would be adding insult to injury. Council Members Stardig and Martin absent.

Mayor Turner stated that the debris removal is a number one priority in the City of Houston and there are people that live on private streets and people living in gated communities and even asking the City of Houston to pick up their debris and asked if she was aware of that and people want that debris up and they want it up yesterday.

Ms. Lisa Bell, 77044, (281)459-6265 appeared and stated that she lives on Lake Houston and she finds it disturbing to hear it is going to cost \$20.00 more and she would have found it disturbing 8 years ago, her tax burden was \$8,000 dollars and last year her tax burden was \$17,000 dollars and this was the first year that they lived in their home where they could not run their air conditioner all summer in order to stay in their home, the City of Houston took away her trash service a few years back to balance the budget and she pays for her service twice once to the City of Houston and once to private service and after that tax was imposed they received a water tax that was

supposed to take care of flooding issues so 2 days after the Hurricane at her home she received her tax bill and she questioned the millions of dollars and where have it gone and she questioned why we have Fleet Vehicle Damage in the City of Houston, was the City not aware of the Hurricane that was coming and \$20.00 a month is something she cannot personally afford.

Mayor Turner stated it was not \$20.00 a month and if the home is valued at \$225,000 it is \$48.00 a year.

Ms. Bell further stated that she pays \$17,000 a year and her salary has not doubled in the last 8 years, it has gone down.

Mayor Turner stated that all he can tell her is that the average house hold is \$225,000.00 in the City of Houston and under this one time a year and it is one time only and all he can say to Ms. Bell this is a onetime emergency item and he asked if she got flood and she stated to the Mayor that she did not but she did get \$10,000.00 in damaged to her home and her deductible in insurance is about \$11,000 dollars so her repairs will go unfixed and Mayor Turner stated that one of the reasons for this one time measure for people who did flood and who debris is outside of their homes and the Fleet vehicles that were destroyed were Firefighter vehicles that was trying to go and rescue people.

Ms. Jessica Hulsey, 77011, (713)829-1873 had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Member Martin absent.

Ms. Melanice Hughes, 77035, (713)816-5491 appeared and stated that before she leaves she wants to take a picture with them because she is always on their time and she tells everyone that she loves them and she says she was Council Member Kubosh daughter, can't they tell and he is like her family and as far as our Seniors and Voters even after the elections are over she never stopped going to see them and there a lot of Seniors that did not get any raises and it saddens her and they do have a problem with this tax increase because they are on fixed income and some of these grandparents are raising their grandkids and they need to go to South Park area because it stinks over there and please do not raise their taxes. Council Members Martin and Laster absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Brenda Stoneham, 77433, (713)302-0322 had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Martin and Laster absent.

Mr. Mark Rodriguez, 23 Delmar, 77011, appeared and stated that he was here last week and he did want to thank them on all the effort that they did put into the flood and he knows that they are dealing a lot but so are they and he is asking to reconsider the tax increase even if it \$20.00 dollars or \$50.00 dollars it going to hurt them and he is with Council Member Kubosh on reappraising the properties because a lot of people houses did get affected and their property value drops and it hurts them and he had some of his properties that did have damages to them and it is kinda hard to ask FEMA to help them and they say that he is a business but they will let him borrow money but they have to apply for it and to see if their credit is good enough and he knows that the City is in a crisis and he understands that the Mayor is in bind right now but they need help and he thinks that they need to be more efficient on all the spending. Council Member Martin absent.

Members of Council questioned Mr. Rodriguez.

City Secretary advised that 2 more people had signed up to speak after the list was made and they would be next.

Mr. Andrew Ward, no address, (832)816-9673 appeared and stated that he had a handout that he will present to the City Council and if they noticed that the date was in 2004 in July when he proposed some changes for some solid waste fees and the way things were handled then and to start he is against the tax, he does not have a problem in paying for it but the issue is and it going to have some kind of sarcasm and most everyone here kind of sounds like that family member that comes to ask to borrow money but was not really good at paying it back and he is continuing in hearing about the Rainy Day Fund and he does not think that the State will have a problem if the City of Houston was handling its own budget for the last 20 years the way it should, Mayor, you want \$1000 million dollars and he can tell him where it is, sell the Solid Waste Department and out of 15 major Cities in the U.S. 7 Cities remain that subsized or pay for all of its residential solid waste and 7 do not and the 7 that do not collect a 85 to 137% revenue expenses and we are at the bottom portion and we are at 11% because we do not charge a fee and if they sell Solid Waste Department, he can sell it for over \$100 million dollars and he did not tell him that he is in the trash industry and the main reason why the trash is not getting picked up is because of the contract with DRC and was asked for before this happened, who had a copy of this and had even read it and shame on them if they have not read it. Council Member Martin absent.

Council Member Davis questioned Mr. Ward.

Mr. Albert Ramos, no address, no phone, appeared and stated that he wanted to thank the Mayor and City Council for all their work during the flood and their creative thoughts on how to pay for some of it and at the same time he wants to express to them that the City needs to look for sources and how to use the funds as well over Governmental accountings and many of people have requested them to sharpen their pencils on the uses and he agrees with that and now they might not get all of the money that they ask for on the tax increase even though it maybe temporary, they may as well put a line item on the Bills to ask all these people who say they want a tax increase to volunteer to pay something and there is nothing that going to stop them to pay \$25 to \$1,000 dollars extra and it may help some of those that do not want the tax increase and he does urge them to keep fighting for the benefit for the City. Council Members Stardig, Davis and Martin absent.

Mayor Turner stated that there are no other speakers and recognized the City Secretary to read a statement.

The City Secretary stated that it is required by law, "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."

Mayor Turner stated that the next Public Meeting will be on Monday October 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. and requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Council Member Davis moved to close the Public Hearing and seconded by Council Member Stardig, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Martin absent. **MOTION 2017-0586 ADOPTED**

Note: During the public hearing motions were offered to extend time for questions of various speakers, and votes taken, which were not prepared in written form and may be viewed on HTV Houston or on disc.

At 8:55 p.m. The City Council was recessed until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 26, 2017, Council Member Martin absent.

A regular meeting of the Houston City Council reconvened at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 26, 2017; Mayor Sylvester Turner presiding, with Council Members Brenda Stardig, Jerry Davis, Ellen Cohen, Dwight Boykins, Steve Le, Greg Travis, Karla Cisneros, Mike Laster, Robert Gallegos, Larry Green, Mike Knox, David Robinson, Michael Kubosh, Amanda Edwards and Jack Christie D.C.; Randy Zamora, Legal Department and Marta Crinejo Agenda Director of Agenda Office present. Council Member Dave Martin absent on personal business.

At 1:40 p.m. Mayor Turner called the meeting to order and stated they would start the presentations. Council Members Stardig, Davis, Le, Travis, Cisneros, Green and Edwards absent.

Mayor Turner stated that Dr. Mari Carmen Ramirez is the recipient of the 2017 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Art in the Community Award, her passion for art advocacy locally and beyond has promoted the arts in the Latino community, sharing the beauty of Latino culture and serving as an artistic voice for the cultivation of Latin American art and since 2001, she has served as the Wortham curator of Latin American art and director of the International Center for the Arts of the Americas at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) and Dr. Mari Carmen Ramirez previously served as the curator of Latin American art at the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art and adjunct lecturer in the department of art and art history at the University of Texas at Austin, as part of MFAH, she has led some of the most well respected art exhibitions, elevating 20th century Latin American art to its rightful place in the art world. She has curated numerous exhibitions, including HOME-So Different, So Appealing, Antonio Berni: Juanita and Ramona and Constructed Dialogues: Concrete, Geometric and Kinetic Art from the Latin American Art Collection, among countless others and additionally, she has curated several traveling exhibitions, most notably, the Inverted Utopias: Avant-Garde Art in Latin America alongside Hector Olea, which was deemed Best Thematic Museum Show Nationally in the USA by the International Association of Art Critics and one of the two most important exhibitions of the past decade by New York Times Art Critic Holland Cotter, Dr. Mari Carmen Ramirez has widely published on the relationship of Latin American art to identity politics, multiculturalism, globalization and curatorial practice, she is also chief co-editor for the Yale University Press book series, "Critical Documents of 20th Century Latin American and Latino Art," and co-editor of the first volume of this series, "Resisting Categories: Latin American and/or Latino?" Most recently, she was inducted into the Greater Houston's Women's Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame in 2016 and the City of Houston commends Dr. Mari Carmen Ramirez for her outstanding contributions in preserving Latin American culture and history, which truly captures her unwavering commitment to the Latin community locally and beyond and is truly inspiring and therefore, I hereby honor Dr. Mari Carmen Ramirez with the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Art in Community Award for the City of Houston and proclaim September 26, 2017, as Dr. Mari Carmen Ramirez Day in Houston, Texas. Council Members Le, Travis, Cisneros, Robinson and Kubosh absent.

Mayor Turner stated that Dr. Irene Porcarello is the recipient of the 2017 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Education in the Community Award, she has dedicated her lifetime persevering and making contributions for the betterment of the Latino community and Dr. Porcarello earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Houston in 1972, during the early '70s, she worked at the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, helping to create the George I. Sanchez High School. In 1975, she earned a master's in social work, specializing in community planning and organizing. In 1978, she enrolled at the University of Houston's Doctoral Program in Education Administration and Higher Education and Dr. Porcarello joined the Houston Community College System in 1982 as a grant specialist, receiving more than two million dollars

in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Energy and she quickly rose through the ranks, becoming campus director in one year. She held the position of dean of Student Development from 1992-2001 for three campuses and later went through other roles, such as deputy to the chancellor and interim vice chancellor for Institutional Development, vice chancellor of Student Success, interim president and her current position, president and in May 2010, she achieved a major milestone by obtaining her doctorate degree from Sam Houston State University in the Educational Leadership and Counseling Program and the City of Houston commends Dr. Irene Porcarello for her outstanding commitment to education in the community and extends best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors and therefore, I hereby honor Dr. Irene Porcarello with the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Education in the Community Award for the City of Houston and proclaim September 26, 2017, as Dr. Irene Porcarello Day in Houston, Texas. Council Members Le, Travis, Cisneros, Robinson and Kubosh absent.

Council Member Gallegos stated that the continued growth of Houston in the 1930s necessitated more schools; therefore, Stephen F. Austin High School, named for the "Father of Texas," Stephen Fuller Austin, was opened in 1937 as a modern three-story structure built on a 13-acre campus in Houston's east side, since its founding, the vision of Austin High School has been to develop socially responsible and productive lifelong learners who will positively contribute to society, during World War II, students helped with the war effort by buying enough government stamps and bonds to purchase three Jeeps, resulting in a service plaque presented to them to honor the students and teachers who helped during the war and since then, the school has produced hundreds of public servants, including school board trustees and Houston council members, police officers, firefighters, educators, nurses, doctors and so many others who have gone on to serve in various capacities and Austin High School has made it its mission to provide its students the skills needed to think logically, independently and creatively, located in the East End community, the school has introduced career magnet programs in the maritime and teaching professions and continuing with its commitment of excellence, and with the passage of the 2012 school bond program, Austin High School will undergo a \$79 million renovation to modernize the campus and continue to provide a high-quality learning environment for the future leaders of our city and on September 30, 2017, Stephen F. Austin High School will celebrate its 80th anniversary and the City of Houston commends Stephen F. Austin High School for its accomplishments and commitment to education in the community and extends best wishes for continued success and therefore, Mayor Turner hereby proclaimed September 30, 2017, as Stephen F. Austin High School Day *80th Anniversary* in Houston, Texas. Council Members Stardig and Travis absent.

At 1:55 p.m. Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Laster for the invocation and he invited Reverend Stephen Capper to offer the invocation and Council Member Laster led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Members Stardig, Davis, Boykins and Gallegos absent.

At 2:08 p.m. the Roll was called. Council Member Dave Martin absent on personal business.

Council Member Cohen moved to adopt the minutes of the 8/15-8/16, 2017 and 8/22-8/23, 2017 delay adoption of the balance of the minutes and seconded by Council Member Knox, all voting aye, nays none. Council Members Boykins, Laster and Gallegos absent. **MOTION ADOPTED**

Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Kubosh for a procedural motion.

Council Member Kubosh move to suspend the rules to hear Mr. Raymond Ito out of order and Seconded by Council Member Stardig, all voting aye, nays none. Council Members Boykins, Laster and Gallegos absent. **MOTION 2017-0587 ADOPTED**

At 2:10 p.m. Mayor Turner requested the City Secretary to call the List of Speakers.

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 Boykins, Laster and Gallegos absent.

Mr. Raymond Ito, 2923 Quail Hawk Dr., 77014, (832)613-1978 appeared and stated that he wanted to thank the City Council and the Mayor for what they did during the Hurricane and getting this City back on track and he is the President of the Houston Taxi Association and he is here to speak on the harassment on the Taxi Drivers at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport, the harassment, abuse, bullying and inhumane treatment of taxi drivers at George Bush Intercontinental Airport by the airport management under the Director of Aviation Mr. Mario Diaz have gone to intolerable levels, it is clear that there's concerted effort to deliberately marginalize and frustrate Taxi Drivers by Airport Officials who act demigods and with impunity and there is a strong sense of racial bias because the majority if Taxi Cab Drivers are from various African and Arab countries who work hard here to take care of their families and we are made to not belonging even though a high majority of cab drivers are naturalized and law abiding American citizens and it is as if they have to beg for crumbs in a land of the free and home to the brave and they reject this because they are proud Americans and proud Houstonians and the historic and devastating Hurricane Harvey impacted all Houstonians and Taxi Drivers and their families were included and a day before the hurricane, the Drivers Lounge where drivers wait for trips was burned down by two suspicious men seen by many witnesses and Mr. Diaz quickly declared it a "crime scene" and has used that pretext to kick drivers out into the harsh elements and obsessively pursued his agenda to drastically reduce the number of taxi cabs at the airport and this maltreatment directly impacts the ability of hardworking drivers who strive to provide excellent service to customers and they demanding the following; 1, the opening of the remaining part of the Drivers Lounge immediately until the restroom is reconstructed; 2, Open the Staging Lounge to its original capacity of 350 cabs and provide an overflow lot; 3, Taxi is a 24/7 business and kicking drivers out of the airport between 1:30 am and 4:30 am has to stop and 4, treat Taxi Drivers professionally as is done to others in other industries. Council Members Green and Christie absent.

Members at Council questioned Mr. Ito at length.

Mayor Turner stated that he has met with Mr. Ito prior to Hurricane Harvey and met with his group and along with number of others and a numbers of these issues are related to the fact that they have TNC's and the models have changed quiet a bit, they did have a staging area of about 500 square feet and they did have the App and the App is only as good if everyone gets on the App and many of the drivers, not necessary the independent drivers but the other cab companies were not signing up on the App and the purpose of the App was to get Cab Drivers to leave and many do not like to leave the Airport even with the App, they choose to remind at the Airport, one of the reason with the 5,000 square feet space is because United is getting ready to move and they cannot stay there and they were given another location and the fire is not familiar and he has to look into it and there are number of issues that they are trying to address and related with the TNC that are now in the equation, the model is changing and making it much more difficult especially for Cab Drivers to be able to do business to make money and take care of their family.

Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Boykins for a point of personal privilege; Council Member Boykins stated he would like to recognized Dr. T Grant Malone and requested him to stand and he with the National Baptist Convention in American, the National Director and Moderator of Houston largest Association with over 24,000 members. Council Members Davis, Green and Kubosh absent.

Mr. Pat Bryan, 1248 West Bell St., 77019, (832)657-9703 appeared and presented a flyer to Members of Council and stated that when the AIDS epidemic hit in 1981 many Houston victims

were facing death and asked if their ashes could be scattered in the back of Mary's bar to be close to their adoptive family of the Montrose Gay community and of the thousands AIDs victims 200 to 300 were interning a cemetery in California, many others have planned a commemoration of a plaque or a commemorative billboard and he was inspired by the Black Lives Matter demonstration of the Spirit of the Confederacy Statue in Sam Houston Park last month and there are cries Nationwide for the removal of the Civil War Monuments and he believes that the Statue that is located in Sam Houston Park would be a fitting Memorial to Houston AIDs Victims, that handsome young flying angel that was holding palm fronds and a sword placed at California Street would be between Legacy Health Care and Mary's back lot watching over the site and commemorating those who were lost. Council Members Davis, Green and Kubosh absent.

Mayor Turner stated that he encourages Mr. Bryan to send his comments to Cultural Affairs at culturalaffairs@houstontx.gov and that is the website that they are using to get peoples comments, for the Task Force that they have put in place in reviewing this whole issue and they already have received 350 comments and he encourages him to forward his comments to them.

Ms. Jessica Hulseley, 4809 Brady St., 77011, (713)829-1873 appeared and stated that this is in reference to a Senior Citizen with disabilities, she had applied to the pedestrian at 205 Stiles Street in the East End and in the 2nd Ward resident, she applied back in 2015 in August for the Safe Sidewalk Program and they are here in 2017 and nothing has happened. Council Member Kubosh absent.

Mayor Turner questioned Ms. Hulseley about Ms. Gurrero applying for the sidewalk and asked if the sidewalk was in disrepair and Ms. Hulseley advising it was the whole block and Mayor Turner that she requested speak with the Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office and for them to see where that work order is and give him a status report directly so he will know where that is and what they need to do.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Hulseley.

Mayor Turner recognized Council Member Green for procedural motion; Council Member Green moved to suspend the rules to add Ms. Barbara Anderson to the list of speakers and seconded by Council Member Stardig, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Kubosh absent. **MOTION 2017-0588 ADOPTED**

Ms. Sheila Condon, 10401 Stella Link Rd., 77025, 713)871-1414 appeared and stated that she lives in Braes Wood Place like many people in Houston and was effected by Harvey and her neighborhood took a very hard hit and she wanted to applaud them all for what they have been doing and continuing to do and her request is there any way to speed it up, is there other funding sources or is there other things people can do and a lot of people are anxious after all these weeks to decide what they are going to do if they are going to rebuild and to bring their neighborhood back and that is her question is there any way to increasing the crews, the people that are out there that came are great, there just not enough of them and there is a little miscommunication about whether or not they are supposed to call 311 to report it for them to come clean it up and also miscommunication about the timelines when debris will be picked up and if they can get a clearer timeline it would help solve a little frustrations. Council Members Stardig and Kubosh absent.

Mayor Turner stated that what he can tell her is that FEMA estimated with the respect to the amount of debris that are on the City's Streets is about 6 months and that is unacceptable timeline from the Administration and the goal is to cut that in half and unfortunately it is not going to happen in 30 days and they will continue to ramp up.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Condon.

Mr. Sid George, 6422 Gladewell, 77072, (832)265-5540 appeared and stated that he first would like to thank the Mayor for the good job he has done in reference to this past flood and this coming from someone that voted for one of his opponents, we seem to be getting these 500 year floods on a regular bases and he has some suggestions for the next one coming up and he thinks it would be advantageous if we have more refugee centers scattered around the County, we seem to flood by the bayous and he knows if his house got flooded, he knows he could not have gotten to Downtown Houston but if there would have been a neighborhood shelter that would have been advantageous and there is a lot of Churches and Community Centers that could be used as shelters and a little prior planning and publicizing these would go a long way, it would not cost a lot of money and the news organizations would have this information and even put out budgets on things that are going to be needed like the next flood and the next 24 to 48 ours things that are going to be needed like socks, shirts, blanket, etc. and this list can be made public and the City can take a role on the budget for the organizations and advised what the money can be used for each item and when we collect enough money for those items then we can close that donation for that item and he thinks it would be advantageous to have permeant identify shelters that are scattered. Council Members Boykins, Green and Kubosh absent.

Members of Council questioned Mr. George.

Mr. Jon Miles, 6124 Long Dr., 77087, (216)245-5397 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Boykins, Green and Kubosh absent.

Minister David Jeremiah, 1510 Fallwood, Sugarland, TX, 77479 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Boykins, Green and Kubosh absent.

Ms. Gabby North Star, no address, (832)656-4256 had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Boykins, Green and Kubosh absent.

Mr. Keith Manley, 4523 Bridgevillage Dr., Spring, TX, 77373, (281)701-5391 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Boykins, Green and Kubosh absent.

Ms. Mercy Richard, Post Office Box 841384, 77284, (832)955-7196 appeared and stated that she is here today because she has a serious concern, she is a survivor of a domestic violence and Hurricane Harvey, she runs a shelter for women and children that are going through domestic violence and abuse and what makes their shelter different that they allow the women and children to come into the shelter with their pets and most of the shelters in the Houston area will only allow the children and not with pets and they have a lot of problems on being able to house most of the women, children and pets that they are receiving due to funding and after Hurricane Harvey they have been having the needs to recover and to get back into the normal business operations in the shelter and FEMA had told them that they should wait for a small load from SBA, they are a Non-Profit and considering to be Non-Profit, the Small Business Administration does not work with the Non-Profits and most of the stuff that they are asking from them is for Profit Organizations and she is here to plead and respectfully plead for funding to be able to put the shelter back because when the flood came most of the water came into the house but for the shelter the water came from the ceiling, they have received help from some of the Churches in the area and they have had help remove the sheet rock, the mold and replaced it with something else and they are still having problem with funds to be able to fix the roofing, the ceiling and the air conditioning, she has reached out to the Chamber of Commerce and they have helped by asking members to

reach out to them to help them but when they get to the shelter they are asking for \$8,000 dollars to \$28,000 dollars and they do not have that, she had reached out to the United Way and for their Emergency Funding which is a little different from the Normal Grant Funds that they would apply to and they told them that they are not familiar with the Mercy House Organization and that they would have to wait until next year. Mayor Turner, Council Members Stardig, Boykins, Travis, Gallegos and Laster absent. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen presiding.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen asked if she was a 501(C) (3) and she understood she could not give out the exact location but requested for her tell them what part of the City they are in or what District they are in and Ms. Richards stated that they are in Cypress.

Council Member Green stated that those were the exact same questions he was going to ask and he does not think that the CDBG's dollars would be able to pay for because she is out of the City of Houston and they can only send funds that are within the City of Houston projects and that is the problem that she is having but he can be wrong.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen requested for her to speak with Shawn that was in the back and he can provide her with some more information on what the City can and cannot do.

Mr. Johnny Taylor, 3262 Westheimer, 77098, (832) 756-4607 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Turner, Council Members Stardig, Boykins, Travis, Gallegos and Laster absent. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen presiding.

Mr. William Beal, 10 Remington Ln., 77005, no phone, had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Turner, Council Members Stardig, Boykins, Travis, Gallegos and Laster absent. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen presiding.

Ms. Barbara Anderson, no address, no phone, appeared and ask how many people are in this room but some people have a purpose in their life that men's eyes cannot see and times have come for a change, not everyone knows names, she has worked hard on everything that she has achieved, for everyone that has turned a blind eye, deaf ears, bullying and favoritisms, mistreatment and theft that is going on at the George R. Brown Convention Center and for the City not to value her as a native Houstonian or a person that deserves equal rights, there are 2 sides to every story, the whole program needs a complete overhaul to work equally for everyone, she would rather be mentoring broken girls and employing community and Council Members, she will be back next week and the week after that on stories of unfair treatment, bullying and more, she might as well tells her stories since she is out of work and she is tired of being bullied and can they tell her African American women that hold concession contract in the City of Houston. Council Members Boykins, Travis and Knox absent.

Members of Council questioned Ms. Anderson.

Ms. Demetria Smith, 1200 Dairy Ashford, 77079, (832)671-9712 had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Boykins, Travis and Knox absent.

Mr. Roger Webb, 1200 Dairy Ashford, 77079, (504)250-7252 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Boykins, Travis and Knox absent.

Mr. Sam Smith, 7813 Glass St., 77016 Glass St., 77016, (346)801-4741 appeared and stated that he wants to thank the Mayor and Council Member Green and for standing up for them last week, he has a few questions and one of the questions is that they have the Kashmere Elementary and there is a library that does not have books but they have a School across the

street and he wants to know if they are going to fix the library or not. Council Members Boykins, Travis and Knox absent.

Council Member Davis stated that the library was closed because of the flooding in the area and it will reopen and nothing was had been issued by Dr. Lawson stating that they were not going to reopen as that area was hit hard and the library will reopen and he will ask for a timeline and he has Mr. Smith's information and will get that information to him.

Mr. Ted Hockless, 10114 North West Park, 77086, (713)530-0342 appeared and stated that he is former employee of the City of Houston and for the first 7 years he worked for Waste Water and then went off to other parts of City of Houston and he thoughts about the flooding of Harvey and how long it has been flooding in Houston and we all the Inner Loop and all the Freeways and City Hall always had been an issue with flooding but his thought is when he worked in Waste Water back in the 80s, the Waste Water was under capacity and then they expand the plants for greater flows but nothing was ever done with the storm water, the storm water was thought like let the bayous handle it and all his years, he really has never seen the bayous really be able to handle much and always floods into the homes, if the Waste Water has places to go, then way do the storm water have any place to go and the City knows where the flooding is occurring and they do not build any tanks or what they call storm sewer retention station, just like they have pump stations all throughout the area to pump the waste waters into the Waste Water Plants but they do not have anything for the storm sewer other than the bayous which does not have the capacity to handle the rain stormwater before it goes out into the bayous or to Galveston and his suggestion is to build storm facilities to store rain water as it collects on the freeway and would pump into these rain storm facilities retention station until it was safe put into the bayous when the rain had subsided and he explain the type of materials they can use to build it. Council Members Davis, Boykins, Laster and Robinson absent.

Mr. Marion Scott, 1600 Louisiana St., 77002, (713)783-9292 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Davis, Boykins, Laster and Robinson absent.

Mr. Todd Emmerton, 11006 Tupper Lake, 77042, (713)208-3444 appeared and stated that he lives in the Lakeside Forest Subdivision and lived there for almost 42 years and when they did the release and all of their homes flooded, he lost everything and today he is here because he needs help desperately, right now FEMA contractors are destroying City of Houston property and private property in his neighborhood, they are not using claws to pick up the debris, they have bulldozers, front loaders and they are tearing up the City of Houston curbs, smashing gutters and pushing debris down into the sewage, they have hit light poles, mail boxes and the name of the Company that is doing the work for FEMA is TLC, the storm debris is in Zone 11M, its not fair to the City of Houston and all of his neighbors to be left with their streets and infrastructure destroyed, they even hit a fire hydrant, there is not enough supervisors and who is going to pay for these damaged, it looks like a war zone and he has photos. Council Members Boykins, Laster and Robinson absent.

Members of Council questioned Mr. Emmerton at length.

Mayor Turner stated that it makes it very difficult because they have contractors and employees being cursed out because they are not going into people driveways and picking up the trash and again literally the City of Houston contractors and employees are being cursed out when they tell them they cannot go onto their property to pick up the debris, they are in a no win situation and he has gotten calls during the day and the weekends with City employees asking, Mayor what do we do, and people have gotten violet with them and when they refuse to go onto people property,

they are in a catch 22 situations and he can say to Mr. Emmerton it is not their intent to destroy because they do care because they have this debris that is covering up everything out there, the debris is taller than the mail boxes and in some cases they do not even see the mail boxes and he understands the concern because he is trying to minimize the damaged and that is why they do not want to go on private property or private streets because they do want to face the criticism that it is making today, it's a catch 22.

Mr. James Partsch-Galvan, 2705 Terry St., 77009, (713)528-2607 had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Boykins, Laster and Robinson absent.

Note: During the public session motions were offered to extend time for questions of various speakers, and votes taken, which were not prepared in written form and may be viewed on HTV Houston or on disc.

At 3:37 p.m. The City Council was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 27, 2017, Council Members Boykins, Laster and Robinson absent.

At 8:37 a.m. Ms. Anna Russell, City Secretary, read the description or captions of the Items on the Agenda.

The Houston City Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 27, 2017 Mayor Sylvester Turner presiding, with 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 D.C.; Ronald Lewis, City Attorney, Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director and Stella Ortega Agenda Office present.

At 9:10 a.m. Mayor Turner called the meeting to order and presented the Mayor's Report. Council Members Stardig, Davis, Boykins, Le, Travis and Gallegos absent.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Turner stated that he is pretty sure that everyone has heard about HPD Officer Nestor Garcia who was involved in a traffic stop and then was hit this morning and he is suffering from serious injuries and when he left the hospital this morning he was in surgery and for everyone to continue to pray for Officer Garcia, he joined the force of August of last year and requested everyone to pause for a moment and take a moment of silence for Officer Garcia.

Mayor Turner also stated he wanted to speak about the Water Bills, since Hurricane Harvey, they have been getting reports of people getting billed twice but not more and he saw some comments on Social Media and Public Works has looked into it and there are number of accounts that have caught their attention where the Water Bills are abnormally high and there could be up to 5,000 accounts, these were homes that were flooded and they are trying to figure out what has happen and those accounts are being flagged and they are working to correct the situation and he did want people to know that they are aware of that situation; a number of people are seeking to start rebuilding and seek permits and he wanted people to be aware that they have set up Permitting Centers around the City and presented a flyer that has been sent out to people that verifies locations and this is to make it easier for people to get permits so that people can restart their rebuilding process, the Center is open Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Turner further stated that the other issue that is in reference in the Debris Removal to provide additional information so people can kind have access to what they are doing in real time and Jesse Bounds who heads the Mayor's Office on Innovation has taken the leadership for developing a website, working with communications in order to provide information for the Council Members to be able to access and for people out in the community to access and it like the whole pothole initiative where they made information available so that people can see things in real time so to speak and they anticipate that the website will go live by the end of this week.

The other issue he wanted to touch on would be on the insurance on the Public Buildings and they had up to \$100,000,000.00 of insurance on the Public Buildings and claims up to this point have not exceeded \$33,000,000.00 with Hurricane Ike and all of the other have not exceeded \$33,000,000.00 and this is one of the time where they anticipate that the damage claims to the buildings will be way more then \$100,000,000.00 and the rough estimate as up to \$175 million dollars and that means that they will have to go out and obtain additional insurance and they need to do it now because we are still in the Hurricane Season.

Members of Council questioned Mayor Turner.

Council Member Cohen stated she wanted to wish Mayor Turner a Happy Birthday!

At 9:34 Mayor Turner requested the City Secretary to call the Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 36

ACCEPT WORK - NUMBERS 1 through 4

1. **RECOMMENDATION** from Acting Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$840,173.86 and acceptance of work on contract with **ISI CONTRACTING, INC** for Work Order Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement Citywide 1.16% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICTS H - CISNEROS and K – GREEN-** was presented, moved by Council Member Cohen and seconded by Council Member Davis, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0589 ADOPTED**

2. **RECOMMENDATION** from Acting Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$14,121,560.73 and acceptance of work on contract with **PEPPER-LAWSON WATERWORKS, LLC** for Intercontinental Airport Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements - 4.69% over the original contract amount and 5% under 5% contingency amount - **DISTRICT B – DAVIS-** was presented, moved by Council Member Cohen and seconded by Council Member Davis, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0590 ADOPTED**

3. **RECOMMENDATION** from Acting Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$5,817,457.19 and acceptance of work on contract with **INDUSTRIAL TX CORP.** for Pump and Lift Station Renewal and Replacement: Horsepen Gully, Scenic Green, Rankin, Green's Bayou Crossing No. 1 and No. 2 Lift Stations - 2.20% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICT A - STARDIG; B - DAVIS and E - MARTIN -** was

presented, moved by Council Member Cohen and seconded by Council Member Davis, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0591 ADOPTED**

4. **RECOMMENDATION** from Acting Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount \$4,480,392.00 and acceptance of work on contract with **LEM CONSTRUCTION, INC** for New Grit Removal Systems and Bar Screen Repair/Replacement at Almeda Sims Wastewater Treatment Plant - 3.02% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICT D – BOYKINS-** was presented, moved by Council Member Cohen and seconded by Council Member Davis, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0592 ADOPTED**

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS - NUMBER 7

7. **CENTRAL TURF FARMS, INC** for St. Augustine sod blocks for the Department of Public Works & Engineering - 3 Years with two one-year options - \$969,414.48 - Enterprise Fund- was presented, moved by Council Member Cohen and seconded by Council Member Davis, all voting aye, nays none. **MOTION 2017-0593 ADOPTED**

ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 13 through 36

13. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing Interlocal Agreement between the City of Houston and the **CITY OF CONROE, TEXAS** for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program - Houston Metropolitan Area- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0726 ADOPTED**

14. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing Interlocal Agreement between the City of Houston and **MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS** for the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance Task Force Program - Houston Metropolitan Area- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0727 ADOPTED**

15. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing submission of an electronic application to the **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** for the FY2018 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Commercial Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety Grant; declaring the City's eligibility for such grant; authorizing the Chief of the Houston Police Department to act as the City's representative in the application process, to accept such grant funds, if awarded, and to apply for and accept all subsequent awards, if any, pertaining to the program- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0728 ADOPTED**

16. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing submission of an electronic application to the **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** for the FY2018 Selective Traffic Enforcement

Program Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety Grant; declaring the City's eligibility for such grant; authorizing the Chief of the Houston Police Department to act as the City's representative in the application process, to accept such grant funds, if awarded, and to apply for and accept all subsequent awards, if any, pertaining to the program- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0729 ADOPTED**

22. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing sixth amendment to contract (Approved by Ordinance No. 2000-0840) between the City of Houston and **GLOBAL TEL*LINK CORPORATION** for the Houston Police Department- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0730 ADOPTED**

26. ORDINANCE establishing the north and south sides of the 500 block of Fargo Street, within the City of Houston, Texas as a special minimum lot size block pursuant to Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas - **DISTRICT C – COHEN-** was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0731 ADOPTED**

27. ORDINANCE establishing the north and south sides of the 3800 block of Wentworth Street, within the City of Houston, Texas as a special minimum lot size block pursuant to Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas - **DISTRICT D – BOYKINS-** was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0732 ADOPTED**

32. ORDINANCE appropriating \$4,215,122.00 out of Street & Traffic Control and Storm Drainage DDSRF and \$2,896,878.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding contract to **HARPER BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION, LLC** for Market Street Paving and Drainage Improvements from N. Wayside Drive to McCarty Road; setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for testing services, CIP Cost Recovery, construction management, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Street & Traffic Control and Storm Drainage DDSRF and Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICTS B - DAVIS and H – CISNEROS-** the City Secretary advised that Item 32 had been pulled by the Administration and will not be considered.

34. ORDINANCE appropriating \$3,766,758.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund; awarding contract to **PM CONSTRUCTION & REHAB, LLC** for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by Cured-In-Place Pipe Method; setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering and testing, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund (WW4258-73)- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0733 ADOPTED**

35. ORDINANCE No. 2017-701, passed second reading September 20, 2017
ORDINANCE granting to **REPUBLIC INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS, LLC**, a Delaware Corporation, the right, privilege, and franchise to collect, haul, and transport solid waste and industrial waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and

conditions; and making certain findings related thereto - **THIRD AND FINAL READING-** was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0701 ADOPTED THRID AND FINAL READING IN FULL**

36. ORDINANCE No. 2017-702, passed second reading September 20, 2017
ORDINANCE granting to **STEEL WASTE INC, a Texas Corporation**, the right, privilege, and franchise to collect, haul and transport solid waste and industrial waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions; and making certain findings related thereto - **THIRD AND FINAL READING** was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0702 ADOPTED THRID AND FINAL READING IN FULL**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

5. **RECOMMENDATION** from Acting Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$4,510,215.46 and acceptance of work on contract with **SCOHIL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, LLC** for Water Line Replacement in Sharpstown II Area 2.16% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICTS E - MARTIN and I - GALLEGOS-** was presented and tagged by Council Member Davis.
6. **RECOMMENDATION** from Acting Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$1,720,187.81 and acceptance of work on contract with **REYTEC CONSTRUCTION RESOURCES, INC** for Rehabilitation to Large Diameter Water Lines, Valves and Appurtenances, Package No. 10 - 13.99% under the original contract amount **DISTRICTS A - STARDIG; B - DAVIS; D - BOYKINS; E - MARTIN; F - LE; G - TRAVIS; H - CISNEROS; I - GALLEGOS; J - LASTER and K - GREEN-** was presented and tagged by Council Member Green.
8. **RESOLUTION** expressing no objection to an application for non-competitive 4% federal tax credits for acquisition and rehabilitation of the **VILLA AMERICANA APARTMENTS**, an affordable multi-family rental community located near 5901 Selinsky Road in the City of Houston, Texas **DISTRICT D - BOYKINS-** was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **RESOLUTION 2017-0032 ADOPTED**
9. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing an amended and restated loan agreement between the City of Houston and **NAUTICAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING, INC**, joined by **HOUSTON 5110 GRIGGS ROAD RESIDENTIAL, LP**, to provide a Performance-Based Loan of an additional \$1,500,000.00 of Federal Community Block Grant Disaster Relief Program - Rental Housing Projects Round 2 funds to assist with construction of a 222 unit Mixed-Income Apartment Development, including 200 affordable units, located in Houston, Texas, near the intersection of Griggs Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard - **DISTRICT D - BOYKINS-** was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0734 ADOPTED**

10. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing an agreement among the City of Houston, **HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** and **SPARK** to provide \$390,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant Funds for the development of neighborhood parks on public school grounds under the Spark Program - **DISTRICTS D - BOYKINS and K – GREEN-** was presented,

After a length discussion a vote was called, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0735 ADOPTED**

11. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing Interlocal Agreement between the City and **HARRIS COUNTY** through Harris County Public Health regarding potential cases of Zika virus transmission among pregnant women and infants for the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry; providing a maximum contract amount - \$317,058.75 - Grant Fund- was presented, Council Member Christie voting no, balance voting aye. **ORDINANCE 2017-0736 ADOPTED**

12. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing grant application to the **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION** for the Houston Health Department Integrated HIV Surveillance and Prevention Program; declaring the City's eligibility for such grant; authorizing the Director of the Houston Health Department to act as the City's representative in the application process, with the authority to accept the grant and expend the grant funds, as awarded, and to apply for and accept all subsequent awards, if any, pertaining to the grant- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0737 ADOPTED**

17. **ORDINANCE** relating to the Fiscal Affairs of the **SAINT GEORGE PLACE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY on behalf of REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER ONE, CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS (SAINT GEORGE PLACE ZONE)**; approving the Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget for the Authority and the Fiscal Years 2018-2022 Capital Improvements Budget for the Zone- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Travis absent. **ORDINANCE 2017-0738 ADOPTED**

18. **ORDINANCE** relating to the Fiscal Affairs of the **MEMORIAL-HEIGHTS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY on behalf of REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER FIVE, CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS (MEMORIAL HEIGHTS ZONE)**; approving the Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget for the Authority and the Fiscal Years 2018-2022 Capital improvement Projects Budget for the Zone **DISTRICTS C - COHEN; G - TRAVIS and H – CISNEROS-** was presented, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Travis absent. **ORDINANCE 2017-0739 ADOPTED**

19. **ORDINANCE** relating to the Fiscal Affairs of the **LAKE HOUSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY on behalf of REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER TEN, CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS (LAKE HOUSTON ZONE)**; approving the Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget for the Authority and the Fiscal Years 2018-2022 Capital improvement Plan Budget for the Zone **DISTRICT E – MARTIN-** was presented, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Travis absent. **ORDINANCE 2017-0740 ADOPTED**

20. **ORDINANCE** relating to the Fiscal Affairs of **LELAND WOODS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY on behalf of REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER TWENTY-TWO, CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS (LELAND WOODS ZONE)**; approving the Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget for the Authority on behalf of the Zone - **DISTRICT B – DAVIS**- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Travis absent. **ORDINANCE 2017-0741 ADOPTED**
21. **ORDINANCE** appropriating \$3,517,479.00 out of Equipment Acquisition Consolidated Fund for purchase of Epic 3 Communication Equipment for Houston Fire Department- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0742 ADOPTED**
23. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **WARD LEONARD f/k/a HOUMA ARMATURE WORKS HOUSTON, LLC** for Medium Voltage Electric Motor Repair Services for the Department of Public Works and Engineering (as approved by Ordinance No. 2012-0306)- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Travis absent. **ORDINANCE 2017-0743 ADOPTED**
24. **ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing agreement for Armored Car Services between the City and **DUNBAR ARMORED, INC** for various City Departments; providing a maximum contract amount - 3 Years with two one-year options - \$517,264.92 - General and Other Funds- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Travis absent. **ORDINANCE 2017-0744 ADOPTED**
25. **ORDINANCE** calling public hearings at which interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard on: Strategic Partnership Agreements between the City of Houston and **CYPRESS CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT, HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 525**, and **HARRIS COUNTY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 17** and on proposals to annex for limited purposes territory located within and in the vicinity of such districts in Harris County; a proposed amendment to the strategic partnership agreement between the City of Houston and **FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 30** and on a proposal for the City of Houston to annex for limited purposes certain territory located within such district in Fort Bend County; proposed amendments to strategic partnership agreements between the City of Houston and **HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 191, HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 278**, and **HARRIS-FORT BEND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 5** and on proposals for the City of Houston to annex for limited purposes territory within and in the vicinity of such districts in Harris and Fort Bend Counties; proposals of the City of Houston to impose the City of Houston's sales and use tax in such territory; providing for the publication of notice of such hearings - **DISTRICTS A - STARDIG; B - DAVIS; E - MARTIN and F – LE**- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Travis absent. **ORDINANCE 2017-0745 ADOPTED**
28. **ORDINANCE** to rename Mercedes Drive, located between Interstate-45 Freeway and Kuykendahl Road, to **LAMBORGHINI DRIVE - DISTRICT B – DAVIS**- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. Council Member Travis absent. **ORDINANCE 2017-0746 ADOPTED**
29. **ORDINANCE** finding and determining public convenience and necessity for the acquisition of

real property interests in connection with the public improvement project known as the Arlington Heights Area Drainage Improvements (Sub Project 1); authorizing the acquisition of fee simple or easement interest to one parcel of land required for the project and situated in the F. Martin Survey, Abstract No. 551, in Harris County, Texas, said parcel of land being located along Coronation Drive between Parkcrest Drive and Arlington Square Drive, in Houston, Harris County, Texas, by gift, dedication, purchase and the use of eminent domain and further authorizing payment of the costs of such purchases and/or eminent domain proceedings and associated costs for relocation assistance, appraisal fees, title policies/services, recording fees, court costs, and expert witness fees in connection with the acquisition of fee simple or easement interest to one parcel of land required for the project - **DISTRICT E – MARTIN**- was presented, Council Member Edwards voting no, balance voting aye. **ORDINANCE 2017-0747 ADOPTED**

- 30. ORDINANCE** finding and determining public convenience and necessity for the acquisition of real property interests in connection with the public improvement project known as the Hillcroft Avenue and Court Road Extension Project; authorizing the acquisition of fee simple title interest in or easement to thirteen parcels of land required for the Project and situated in the John Lafayette Survey, Abstract No. 280, the heirs of Edward Drew Survey, Abstract No. 163, and the H. Shropshire (heirs) Survey, Abstract 313, Fort Bend County, Texas, said parcels of land being located along the Fort Bend Parkway from Hillcroft/Fondren to FM 2234 and along Court Road from the SBFR to Quailynn Drive, in the City of Houston, Fort Bend County, Texas, by gift, dedication, purchase and the use of eminent domain and further authorizing payment of the costs of such purchases and/or eminent domain proceedings and associated costs for relocation assistance, appraisal fees, title policies/services, recording fees, court costs, and expert witness fees in connection with the acquisition of fee simple or easement interest to thirteen parcels of land required for the project - **DISTRICT K – GREEN**- was presented, Council Member Edwards voting no, balance voting aye. **ORDINANCE 2017-0748 ADOPTED**
- 31. ORDINANCE** finding and determining public convenience and necessity for the acquisition of real property interests in connection with the public improvement project known as the acquisition of right of way for Clark Road Drainage and Paving Improvements Project; authorizing the acquisition of fee simple or easement interest to nine parcels of land required for the project and situated in the H & T.C.R.R. Co. Survey, Abstract No. 970 and Abstract No. 428, in Harris County, Texas, said parcels of land being located along Clark Road between Burbank Street and Tidwell Road, in Houston, Harris County, Texas, by gift, dedication, purchase and/or the use of eminent domain and further authorizing payment of the costs of such purchases and/or eminent domain proceedings and associated costs for relocation assistance, appraisal fees, title policies/services, recording fees, court costs, and expert witness fees in connection with the acquisition of fee simple or easement interest to nine parcels of land required for the project - **DISTRICT H – CISNEROS**- was presented, Council Member Edwards voting no, balance voting aye. **ORDINANCE 2017-0749 ADOPTED**
- 33. ORDINANCE** appropriating \$763,300.00 out of Street & Traffic Control and Storm Drainage DDSRF and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC d/b/a IMS ENGINEERS, INC** for Gray and Taft Area Paving and Drainage - **DISTRICT C – COHEN**- was presented, all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0750 ADOPTED**

NON CONSENT AGENDA - NUMBER 37

MISCELLANEOUS

- 37. SET PUBLIC HEARING DATES** in connection with the bond election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, call three public hearings at which interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard on the proposed propositions regarding the issuance of pension obligation bonds and public improvement bond- was presented,

Council Member Cohen moved to set the Public Hearing Dates on October 10, 2017, October 17, 2017 and October 25, 2017 and seconded by Council Member Robinson, all voting aye, nays none **MOTION 2017-0594 ADOPTED** .

MATTERS HELD - NUMBER 38

- 38. ORDINANCE** approving and authorizing third amendment for the contract between the City of Houston and **DRC EMERGENCY SERVICES, LLC** for Disaster Debris Removal Services for the Solid Waste Management Department; providing a maximum contract amount - \$60,000,000.00 Disaster Recovery Fund - **TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREEN**
This was Item 32 on Agenda of September 20, 2017- was presented,
After a lengthy discussion vote was called and all voting aye, nays none. **ORDINANCE 2017-0751 ADOPTED**

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS - Council Member Edwards first

Members of Council announced events and discussed matters of interest.

There being no further business before Council; the City Council adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Council Members Stardig, Davis, Boykins, Le, Travis and Kubosh absent. **DETAILED INFORMATION ON FILE ON THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY**

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

Anna Russell, City Secretary

