

## **FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7**

Minutes for the regular Meeting of September 9, 2025

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER.** The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM by Commissioner **Lopez** at the District Fire Station, 1834 W. Sycamore, Fresno, TX. The Commissioners in attendance were **Freddy Lopez, Janet McClain, Ferrel Bonner** and **Ruston Hughes**. Commissioner **Barbara Hamilton** was absent. Also, present were Assistant Fire Chief Tom Henderson, Esmeralda Mendez, and other Fire Department Staff; District Legal Counsel John Peeler of Coveler & Peeler, P.C and Jessica Adkins of Coveler & Peeler, P.C.; Mark Miller of Municipal Accounts & Consulting (remotely); and Justin Waggoner of Touchstone.
2. **TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT.** The Board opened the floor to public comment. No public comment was received.
3. **TO REVIEW AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS.** A motion was made by **Commissioner McClain**, seconded by **Commissioner Bonner**, to approve the August 12, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.
4. **TO PROPOSE THE DISTRICT 2026 BUDGET.** District Counsel John Peeler gave an update on re-proposing the 2026 Budget and Tax Rate due to an error that was found in the calculations. Assistant Chief Henderson and Ms. Mendez presented the 2026 proposed budget. A motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes**, seconded by **Commissioner McClain**, to propose the budget as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.
5. **TO PROPOSE THE DISTRICT 2025 TAX RATE.** District Counsel John Peeler presented this agenda item. A motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes**, seconded by **Commissioner Bonner**, to propose a total tax rate of \$0.098479 per \$100. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.
6. **TO REVIEW AND ACT TO SET THE DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TAX RATE SETTING.** A motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes**, seconded by **Commissioner Bonner** to have the public hearing on September 17, 2025, at 11:30am, at the District Fire Station, 1834 W. Sycamore, Fresno, TX. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.
7. **TO ACT ON FINANCIAL METTERS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL REPORT, INVOICES/BILLS, INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT POLICY, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, CREDIT CARDS, REQUIRED REPORTS, AND REVISIONS TO BUDGET(S).** Mark Miller presented the monthly report noting: 97.60% of the 2024 ad valorem taxes had been collected as of July, and 98% collected as of August. A motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes**, seconded by **Commissioner McClain**, to approve the reports and pay District bills as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.
8. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON DISTRICT WEBSITE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH MATTERS.** Justin Waggoner presented updates regarding website and

community outreach. He noted that there were 382 active users and 352 new users to the District's website.

9. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF, COMMAND STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REGARDING FRESNO FIRE AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES, TO REVIEW REQUESTS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.** Assistant Chief Henderson presented the monthly calls for service, training, and updates noting that staff anticipates moving into the new Administration offices in April or May of 2026. It was also noted that the Department hosted Mike McCall, BMT Risk Management, to give a Standards talk with the Staff. Ford has come up with a solution on the Booster 51 (F550) recall issue so it can go in service. Lastly, Engine 51 is out of service for warranty repair, and the ladder truck is also out of service.
10. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON MATTERS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT FACILITIES AND REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING ENGAGEMENT OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS OR ENGINEERING SERVICES, SELECTION OF BUILDERS/CONTRACTORS AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTY ENTITIES REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATIONS, INCLUDING ACTION ON CONSTRUCTION FINANCING.** Assistant Chief Henderson presented that new Station 52 redesign is underway, and the County discussed participation with EMS, Hazmat or maybe the Sheriff's Office.
11. **TO ACT ON REAL ESTATE, INCLUDING SALES, PURCHASES, LEASES, PERMITS, ENCUMBRANCES, PLATTING, SURVEYING, UTILITIES AND ACQUISITION FINANCING.** Assistant Chief Henderson reported that staff is not ready to recommend the Board make an offer on property, as there is still a chance the additional land will not be needed for the revised design of new Station 52.
12. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF ACQUISITION FINANCING FOR SAME AND TO DISCUSS AND ACT ON DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS OR SALVAGE PROPERTY PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE §775.0735.** Assistant Chief Henderson noted that they would have surplus to present at the next meeting.
13. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.071 TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL ON LITIGATION, SETTLEMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS UNDER TEXAS BAR RULES.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.071.
14. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.072 REGARDING REAL ESTATE MATTERS.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.072.



15. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.074 REGARDING REAL ESTATE MATTERS.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.074.
16. **TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON PERSONNEL MATTERS, INCLUDING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, FIRE SUPPRESSION STAFF, COMMAND STAFF AND FIRE CHIEF, INCLUDING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, JOB DUTIES, SCHEDULING, HIRING AND RETENTION.** There was no discussion on this agenda item.
17. **TO DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SET FUTURE MEETING DATES.** The next regular meeting will be held on October 14, 2025.
18. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business brought before the Board; the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 PM.

  
Janet McClain, Secretary