



Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM
8301 Westview Drive, Houston, Texas 77055

This meeting was held in person at City Hall with remote attendees present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Maddock called to order the Regular Council Meeting at 6:30 P.M.

1.A. Pledge of Allegiance

1.B. The **invocation** was given by Mayor Pro Tem Maddock

1.C. PRESENT

Mayor Russell Herron
Council Member Robert Byrne
Council Member Andy Carey
Mayor Pro Tem Paul Maddock
Council Member David Schwarz

Present remotely: Mayor Herron, Council Member Schwarz*, Spring Valley Police Captain Lane

**Council Member Schwarz was not eligible to vote due to Texas Open Meetings Act regulations.*

Also present: City Attorney Bounds, Administrator Blevins, Assistant City Secretary Stephens, Captain Schulze

ABSENT

Council Member Mike Gordy

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Gregg & Karin Donovan, 8307 Creekstone Circle, said they are longtime residents and serve on their subdivision board. Mr. Donovan said he has four (4) large rocks in front of his house and there is a City water flush valve in a water box located 27-inches from the road's edge. He said delivery trucks do a 3-point turn to get out of the cul-de-sac and have run into his yard multiple times a month. He said trucks have also run over the water box and broken it twice. Mr. Donovan said the roadside area in front of his house is only 15-feet wide and not big enough to accommodate a vehicle, therefore, there is no benefit to installing a parking pad. Mr. Donovan asked for an exception to the city ordinance to allow the rocks to remain for the protection of his yard as well as the City's water box.

Council Member Carey entered the building.

Mayor Pro Tem Maddock said the citizen is requesting to be put on the next agenda to allow the rocks to remain in the right-of-way.

Bill Bristow, 1233 Pine Chase Drive, asked if the National Night Out was sponsored by the City because there were no police or fire department presence. He said he didn't see many council members at the function either and he would like for that to be a City function instead of the Civic Club.

Council Member Byrne asked Attorney Bounds for legal advice regarding council members attendance at social events to avoid a walking quorum. Attorney Bounds said as long as it is a social event and no City business is discussed between council members then there is no problem.

Ron Presswood, 8202 Burkhart Rd, said he is against the addition of street lights as they are not conducive to the aesthetic of the City. He stated that he has an aunt who lives in Spring Valley and has a street lamp in her yard. Additionally, Mr. Presswood said he has talked to his neighbors who were also not interested in adding street lamps to the city.

3. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

3.A. **Police Report:** Captain Lane said for the month of September there were a total of 127 calls for service including 61 business checks, 34 public relations, 2 suspicious vehicles, and 5 traffic stops.

Captain lane said the site surveys for the **License Plate Reader Cameras** was conducted and now and they are waiting for the equipment to arrive. Administrator Blevins said there will need to be an 811 Dig request for those installations.

3.B. **Building Official's Report:** Administrator Blevins said there were no outstanding items to report.

3.C. **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Vasquez said he prepared the engineer's report for this month's meeting. He stated that there were no outstanding items in the report.

Wirt Road Safety Project - Mayor Herron asked if there is anything the City can do to appeal to the City of Houston for a swifter response. Engineer Him said he has begun communications with Patrick Nguyen who is taking over during Thomas Kern's leave of absence. Engineer Him said the City of Houston owes us information from 2019 plans to improve I-10, the feeder road, and Wirt Road. He said if he cannot get a response from Mr. Nguyen then he will start reaching out to other avenues.

Water Meter Vault Upgrades - Mayor Pro Tem Maddock asked about the meeting with Ms. Winslow, the City of Houston Director of Account Services. Engineer Him said he sent a request for a meeting two weeks ago but has not heard back.

Mayor Pro Tem Maddock asked about the status of the **Lift Station Generator**. Engineer Him said Administrator Blevins and Council Member Gordy are managing the project. Administrator Blevins said they have been looking for records of

easements but have not been successful. She said Council Member Gordy is researching generators and the location for the equipment in the available space.

Council Member Byrne raised concerns about the quality of workmanship on the **parking pad at 1306 Pine Chase Drive**. He said the construction appears to be rough, and that the stakes that were used for forming the concrete were left in the concrete and aesthetically looks poor. He asked if there is a plan to make this look better. Engineer Vasquez said he will coordinate with the homeowner who is constructing the parking pad himself. Engineer Him said typically they do not inspect the contractor throughout the job but they will inspect the form and if the texture of the concrete is not correct then it will be addressed with the homeowner so that the final product matches what was approved. Mayor Pro Tem Maddock said he agrees with Council Member Byrne on the construction and aesthetics. **Bill Bristow, 1233 Pine Chase Drive**, said the parking pad at 1306 Pine Chase Drive not only looks terrible, but there have been no barricades or warning signs to keep people from driving or walking on it. He said if a vehicle were to run into the raised concrete blocks, then the driver would be able to fault the City.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4.A. Discussion and Possible authorization of Council to authorize engineering to get pricing for a pilot program for paving repairs for erosion problems at the paving edge throughout the asphalt roads

Motion made by Council Member Byrne, Seconded by Council Member Carey.

Bill Bristow, 1233 Pine Chase Drive, said he thinks the drop-offs at the side of the street are not as big of an issue as the drainage problems in the City.

Council Member Byrne asked Mayor Herron if there is a possibility to install this product in front of every residential address. Mayor Herron said the product needs to be tested in the City first, minimizing the expense if it didn't work.

Council Member Byrne asked Engineer Vasquez about the sustainability of this material. Engineer Vasquez said proper application by a qualified contractor who will follow the specifications will minimize the maintenance issue. He also said that there are different types of materials available based on the user's needs and traffic patterns. Engineer Him said a key factor of any installation is having the right contractor do the right application. He said the grids have proven to be successful in other cities and that he believes this will work for the proposed use in Hilshire Village. Engineer Him approved of this pilot program to test the product. Council Member Byrne stated that future ditch grading and improvements should also be considered.

Council Member Carey asked what the width of the parking area would be with this material installed. Engineer Him said it will differ based on the space available, but he would suggest the inside edge be no closer than one (1) foot from the top of the ditch.

Council Member Carey asked if this proposal is a result of the parking pad issue. Engineer Him said it could solve two problems, the pavement edge drop-off and parking pads. Mayor Herron said when Pine Chase Drive was re-paved the shoulder was not built up to the new surface. Administrator Blevins said there are areas where the pavement is breaking. Council Member Byrne said the focus should be on the pavement, parking pad benefits are secondary.

Voting Yea: Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock

The motion passed unanimously.

4.B. Discussion of Street Lights

Mayor Herron explained that there are two types of light poles, an overhead and a classic style light. He stated that the characteristic of an overhead light is that it focuses light downward and usually has an arm extending out to direct the light. Mayor Herron reviewed photos taken in Spring Valley Village of some classic style lights as well as overhead style. He also reviewed after dark photos on Glourie Drive displaying an intersection that has a street light but is not illuminating the area properly.

Mayor Herron said there are some classic-style light poles in the curb and gutter streets eight (8) inches from the curb which light the street well. He stated, however, that in an open ditch situation the pole would be eight (8) to twelve (12) feet from the edge of the pavement. Council Member Carey said the classic lights would not work on the open ditch streets. He said there are consulting groups that can analyze the output and advise on the needs of the City.

Council Member Schwarz stated that crime is increasing in the City of Houston and he personally knows victims. He said other cities have moved forward on these actions to protect their citizens. Council Member Schwarz said the Spring Valley Police Chief has already acknowledged the benefits of more lighting and said there are a lot more people including children using the city streets after dark. He said he encourages the idea to contract with a consultant and for the safety of the citizens more lighting is necessary.

Council Member Byrne asked the Mayor if all of the lights that are currently in the City are functioning properly, and suggested that an audit should be done for possible repairs. The council agreed to the research of lighting consultants and to provide more information at the next council meeting.

Brett Williams, 1201 Pine Chase Drive, said he lives on a corner with his wife and children who exercise in the City regularly. He stated that as a citizen, the lighting situation in the Village is embarrassing. He said there are streets that they walk which aren't lit at all and the City needs to get information from a professional about the proper equipment and positioning to increase the lighting and safety of the City.

- 4.C. **Discussion and Possible approval of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas, Resolution # 2021-220 authorizing participation in the National Opioid Settlement Agreements secured by the Office of the Attorney General as a "Non-Litigating subdivision"; and authorizing the Mayor to execute certain settlement participation documentation**

Motion made by Council Member Byrne, Seconded by Council Member Carey.

Attorney Bounds said this was a Class Action Suit brought by the State Attorney General's Office against opioid manufacturers. He stated that if the cities, counties, and governors agree to the settlement then it would distribute monies intended to offset costs of opioid abuse in the community.

Voting Yea: Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock

The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Council did not convene into executive session.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

7. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

- 7.A. **Fire Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Byrne said there have been zero (0) fire calls to Hilshire Village year-to-date, but there have been nine (9) alarm calls.

Fire Station Renovation Project - Commissioner Byrne said the department is close to moving into the new facility. He said they are finalizing the brick and entryway and hope to be fully moved in on the 25th of this month.

- 7.B. **Mayor Herron's Report:** Mayor Herron said there are no additional items.

- 7.C. **City Administrator's Report:** Administrator Blevins said the City-wide tree trimming will be getting back on schedule soon.

Administrator Blevins stated that Inframark conducted an annual inspection of the City's fire hydrants and noted the sizes of each for the new **Storz fire hydrant connections**.

- 7.D. **City Treasurer's Report:** Administrator Blevins provided the investment report to the Council.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Byrne, Seconded by Council Member Carey.

- 8.A. Disbursements

- 8.B. Minutes From the Regular Council Meeting of September 21, 2021

8.C. Check Registers

8.D. Minutes From the Special Council Meeting of September 22, 2021

8.E. 4th Quarter Investment Report

Voting Yea: Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock

The motion passed unanimously.

9. ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS: No comments were made regarding items outside of the scope of the agenda.

10. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS: No new topics were raised.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Administrator Blevins reminded the Council that the Memorial Villages Recycling Event is taking place this Saturday, October 23rd at the Hedwig Village City Hall Parking Lot.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Council Member Carey, Seconded by Council Member Byrne.

Voting Yea: Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Paul Maddock, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Susan Blevins, City Secretary