



# Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM  
8301 Westview Drive, Houston, Texas 77055

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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 PM.

- 1.A. Invocation was given by Council Member Carey
- 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.C. PRESENT
  - Mayor Russell Herron\*
  - Council Member Mike Gordy
  - Council Member Robert Byrne
  - Council Member Andy Carey
  - Mayor Pro Tem Paul Maddock
  - Council Member David Schwarz

Also Present: Administrator Blevins, Assistant City Secretary Stephens, City Attorney Bounds, Spring Valley Police Interim Chief Schulze, Spring Valley Police Captain Lane, City Engineer Him\*, City Engineer Vasquez\*, and Mayor Elect Buesinger\*

*\*Present and visible remotely*

## 2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

**Bill Bristow, 1233 Pine Chase Drive**, said that he has been a resident of Hilshire Village for 48 years. He said that he feels that the current Council does not enforce the ordinances and also stated that there has been poor citizen attendance at City Council Meetings. Mr. Bristow said that he is in favor of Spring Valley annexing the City of Hilshire Village for these reasons.

## 3. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

- 3.A. **Police Report:** Interim Chief Schulze said that there was a meeting at the City of Spring Valley regarding the changes in leadership due to Chief Evans's departure. He stated that he is the acting Police Chief for the time being and does not anticipate changes to the services provided to the City of Hilshire Village under his watch. Captain Lane said that he is looking forward to the agency operating under Chief Schulze.

Mayor Pro Tem Maddock said that they have not seen as many patrolling officers in the Hilshire Oaks Court cul-de-sac lately. Captain Lane said that he will make sure that they enter the street when on patrols.

Captain Lane said that in the month of March there were 492 calls, of which 343 were business checks, 91 public relations and 20 traffic stops. He stated that the evidence indicates that if a vehicle is broken into it was more than likely left unlocked. He said the detectives continue to work with outside agencies to solve the various thefts.

Council Member Gordy asked about the impact of the newly installed decorative street lights in Spring Valley. Captain Lane stated that light helps to deter criminals.

Council Member Carey asked if the number of calls for service have increased or stayed the same. Captain Lane said over the last couple of years there has been a big increase in crime in the area. He said the detectives share information and crime statistics for the surrounding areas and watch trends to adjust patrol techniques. Council Member Byrne said that there is a lot of crime around the City, but asked how the crime in Hilshire Village has been trending. Interim Chief Schulze said that criminal activity within the city limits has not inflated like in City of Houston.

- 3.B. **Building Official's Report:** City Administrator Blevins said that there were nine (9) permits issued in the month of March. She stated that there were two (2) building final inspections; 1334 Glourie Drive, 7906 N Villa Court. Administrator Blevins said that there was a red tag issued to 2 Pine Creek Lane and 3 Pine Creek Lane for continuing to work on an Erosion Control Project without a permit.
- 3.C. **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Vasquez said that progress has been made on the **Bromley Street Repair** and **Pine Chase Drive Yard Inlet Replacement**. He said the street signs should be installed this week at the Pine Chase intersection as well as no parking signs along the south curve of Ridgeley Drive.

Administrator Blevins said that conversation has been initiated with the City of Houston for the installation of fencing around the perimeter of the water assets at **Pine Chase Grove cul-de-sac**.

Council Member Carey asked for verification that the City of Houston initially agreed to participate in the mobility improvements, being the traffic signal and left-turn lanes, of the **Wirt Road Safety Project**. Engineer Him said that he attended a meeting in March to discuss the interlocal agreement with City of Houston, and was expecting more participation but at this point that percentage has not been established. Engineer Him stated that previously the City of Houston was prepared to commit approximately \$90,000 for this project, which would only cover the engineering for the sidewalk. He said Harris County has agreed to perform the construction as their contribution.

Mayor Herron said that he combined the Wirt Road projects to create the Wirt Road Safety Project. He said the City of Houston has not shown interest, and suggested that the mobility improvements be dropped and to focus on the sidewalk.

Council Member Carey volunteered to contact Harris County Commissioner Ramsey to update their office on the status of the project, as the initial conversation was had almost a year ago.

Mayor Herron asked if an interlocal agreement with City of Houston is needed since Harris County will cover the construction cost and execution. Engineer Him said that the sidewalk will be in the City of Houston right-of-way so a permit will be needed, but an interlocal agreement is only necessary if the City of Houston participates in the funding of the project.

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

4.A. **Discussion and Possible authorization of the sale by special warranty deed of a portion of Hilshire Villa Drive to David Schwab, the adjacent property owner of Lot 7, South Villa Circle**

**Motion made by Council Member Byrne, Seconded by Council Member Schwarz.**

Engineer Him said that he and the building official have reviewed Lot 7 in the Hilshire Villas Subdivision which has a side property line adjacent to a local street. He stated that Mr. Schwab is requesting that the garage be permitted to be built at the ten (10) foot building setback instead of the current required 15-foot setback, and that five (5) feet of the street right-of-way would be purchased by Mr. Schwab. Engineer Him said that he is recommending that the city sell five (5) feet of the street end to Mr. Schwab. Attorney Bounds stated that the City can retain an easement for the street and utilities under a special warranty deed.

Council Member Byrne asked what other implications this might cause. He said that the current road design allows emergency vehicles to navigate the neighborhood and if a vehicle is parked in the driveway, it might impede their ability. Council Member Byrne said that cars are currently parking in the stub dead end in front of 7902 N Villa Ct. Mr. Schwab said that he spoke with the Village Fire Department who at the time of plat approved the street design.

Mr. Schwab said that the fire hydrants are in locations where parking in the dead ends will not affect that. He said due to inflation he wants to build a bigger house and needs this extra space to do so.

**Voting Yea: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock, Council Member Schwarz**

**Voting Nay: Council Member Byrne**

**The motion carried 4-1.**

#### **5. REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

- 5.A. **Fire Commissioner's Report:** Fire Commissioner Byrne said that year-to-date there have been 7 fire and 16 EMS calls to Hilshire Village. He added that Hilshire Village's percentage of calls thus far is 2.6%, staying within the 3% of the budget the City is responsible for. Commissioner Byrne said additional full-time staff is

needed for the second ambulance to be available twenty-four hours a day. He said the Fire Chief should be at next month's meeting to discuss next year's budget. He also stated that the City is next in the rotation of chairing the Fire Commission, so he has been attending other city council meetings in preparation.

Commissioner Byrne stated that Bunker Hill is officially back in the Interlocal Agreement.

Commissioner Byrne said that staff is settled into the Fire Station and the contract should be complete by the end of May.

Council Member Gordy asked if any other cities followed in supplying extra funds to the department. Commissioner Byrne said that he has not heard of another participating city doing so.

- 5.B. **Mayor Herron's Report:** Mayor Herron said that this is his last meeting as Mayor of Hilshire Village. He stated that the Wirt Road Sidewalk Project and city-wide lighting are projects that are still incomplete.

5.C. **City Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Blevins said that she would appreciate feedback from the Council on the survey she prepared for the citizens regarding street lighting and the Wirt Road sidewalk project. Council Member Gordy said that there is a safety baseline that requires sufficient lighting in the City and does not feel that citizens should be asked if they want additional lighting but instead which type of lights should be installed.

Council Member Carey suggested that the first question on the survey be amended to ask citizens if they support eliminating dark spots by upgrading existing lighting and additional cobra style lights.

Council Member Byrne said there is a need for additional lighting. He said that the cobra lights are working but need to be replaced with LED. He also stated that the gaps are easy to see on the map.

Council Member Gordy said the Wirt Road Sidewalk should not be sent out as a survey because of the money and time that has already been invested. He said that this is another baseline safety issue. Council Member Gordy said that the citizens should be notified of the intentions for the sidewalk to make them aware.

- 5.D. **City Treasurer's Report:** Administrator Blevins said the City received a notice from the City of Houston for an additional increase in water rates and for the first time in several years, sewer will also be increasing.

Administrator Blevins said that there is an error in the fiscal year's remaining expenses on the report provided to Council. She also said that the CDARS account overview should reflect a 0.07% return instead of 1%.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Motion made by Council Member Schwarz, Seconded by Council Member Gordy.**

Administrator Blevins said that Consent Agenda item 6.E. as presented should be removed and amended to authorize Council Member Gordy to select a company and plan for the monitoring and maintenance of the generator at City Hall.

- 6.A. Approve Disbursements
- 6.B. Approve Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of March 15, 2022
- 6.C. Approve Check Registers for March 2022
- 6.D. Approve 2nd Quarter Investment Report
- 6.E. Authorize Mayor to sign a new agreement with Power Now LLC for remote monitoring and Maintenance of Generator for \$850.00 to include monitor install, one year of maintenance and 24/7 monitoring
- 6.F. Approve a Proclamation recognizing the End of the Year Event on May 22, 2022 on Pine Chase Grove

**Council Member Schwarz amended the motion to allow for an amendment to Item 6.E. to authorize Council Member Gordy to select a monitoring plan for the generator, Seconded by Council Member Gordy.**

**Voting Yea on the Amended Motion: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock, Council Member Schwarz**

**The motion carried 5-0.**

## **7. ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 9.A. 911 Resolution

## **10. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Council convened into Executive Session as authorized by Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 and 551.074 at **7:51 PM.**

- 10.A. Deliberate the appointment, employment and duties of a public employee
- 10.B. Consult with attorney regarding contemplated litigation

The Council reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at **8:50 PM.**

## **11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- 11.A. Discussion and Possible Approval of actions related to Agenda Item Number 10

**No action was taken from the Executive Session**

**12. ADJOURNMENT Motion made by Council Member Schwarz, Seconded by Council Member Carey.**

**Voting Yea: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Byrne, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock, Council Member Schwarz**

**The motion carried 5-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at **8:54 P.M.**

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Paul Maddock, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

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Susan Blevins, City Secretary