



Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 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. The **invocation** was given by Council Member Schwarz.

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: City Engineer Him*, City Attorney Rutherford*, City Administrator Blevins, Assistant City Secretary Stephens, Spring Valley Police Captain Lane, Spring Valley Police Captain Schulze. City Attorney Bounds* arrived late.

*Present and visible remotely.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Bill Bristow, 1233 Pine Chase Drive, said the City Building Inspector is leaving inspection result tags which display the City of Spring Valley and aren't dated or signed.

Richard Raines, 9 Pine Creek Lane, said he questions how Ordinance 778 is enforced. He said the ordinance is supposed to keep street parked vehicles from making it harder to get in and out of driveways, but his neighbor continuously has a vehicle parked on the street making access to his driveway difficult. He said his neighbor has been confrontational about the situation and Spring Valley Police Officers have been involved. He suggested the ordinance be amended to include "on Pine Creek Lane it is unlawful to leave standing or park any vehicle directly behind a driveway".

Mike Autenreith & Susan Oehl, 7903 Hilshire Green Drive, said they are in attendance to hear about how CARES Act funds will be used and what the next steps are in regards to Hilshire Green Drive infrastructure repairs.

3. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

- 3.A. **Mayor Herron's Report:** Mayor Herron thanked **Diane Rager, 8213 Mallie Ct**, for the summary of council activities in the Hilshire Village Civic Club Newsletter.

Mayor Herron said there are six (6) projects underway: Police Safety Technology, Wirt Road Safety, Lift Station Generator, Pavement Drop-Off, Hilshire Green Infrastructure and Street Lighting Improvements.

- 3.B. **Police Report:** Captain Lane said last month there were 210 calls for service, of which 116 were public relations. He stated that there were 61 citations issued, 40 being traffic violations solely on Ridgeley Drive, and the remaining 21 being parking citations. Captain Lane said numerous complaints were received about Ridgeley Drive and he stated that he provided Administrator Blevins a list of the parking violation hot spots.

Captain Lane stated that site surveys for the **License Plate Reader Cameras** at Ridgeley and Westview need to be re-done due to tree coverage blocking the solar panel.

Captain Lane said that vehicles traveling on **Burkhart Road onto Ridgeley Drive** have to be very cautious because there is limited visibility. He said adding four way stop signs at that intersection would allow more time for drivers to enter the roadway. Council Member Byrne said there also were not any stop signs on either end of Anadell Street. Council Member Schwarz said the stop signs need to be clearly visible.

- 3.C. **Building Official Report:** There was nothing outstanding to report.

- 3.D. **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Him said the City of Houston asked HDR to develop the **Interlocal Agreement** to be reviewed by Mayor Herron and Attorney Bounds before submittal to City of Houston. He stated that the City of Houston staff will confirm with Council Member Peck on the contribution of funds.

Administrator Blevins stated that the **Verizon Cell Node** cabinet locations were marked. Engineer Him said shrubs will be planted to hide the appearance of the cabinets. He said adjustments were suggested to Verizon for some of the cabinets to allow clearance for the shrubbery on the ditch side. Administrator Blevins stated that the citizens will be contacted before installation.

Engineer Him said that the City of Houston will be replacing the water meters at no cost to Hilshire Village and the CARES Act funds received by the City can now be used for a portion of the **Hilshire Green Infrastructure Improvements**. Engineer Him said the money from the CARES Act will cover the engineering design of the Hilshire Green roadway, water, and sewer lines.

Michael Autenreith, 7903 Hilshire Green Drive, said the old-style street inlet grates are not efficient and often get clogged. He stated that some type of cut in the street was done years ago and is separating.

Susan Oehl Autenreith, 7903 Hilshire Green Drive, asked for clarification on replacing water meters on Hilshire Green Drive. Engineer Him explained that the

water meters being installed by the City of Houston are not residential, but for the interconnect from City of Houston to Hilshire Village.

Sid Rewari, 7902 Hilshire Green Drive, said the end of the cul-de-sac could use drains as there are none. He said he has lived there a year and has seen the water standing on the pavement.

Mayor Herron said that Hilshire Green is the oldest street in the City that has not had a major re-vamp of infrastructure. He said it was designed to connect with the old Wirt Road when it still had ditches.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4.A. Discussion and possible approval of a license to use the City's right-of-way for the placement of small boulders for the purpose of protecting a city water meter at 8307 Creekstone

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

Engineer Him said that his recommendation is to bury the boulders allowing six (6) inches or less to remain above ground. He said it is important that the rocks not be too tall so that drivers have space to safely turn around without causing damage to their vehicle. He also stated that he is recommending a reflector stick or button be installed for nighttime visibility. Council Member Byrne said reflectors on the roadway would be more effective than on the rocks.

Engineer Him said the cul-de-sac drains from the center outwards and the ditches in that area are shallow. Attorney Bounds said he did not think the City would be liable for accidents due to the rocks, only for special defects like potholes. Mayor Herron said a parking pad with a retaining wall would also work, but the boulders are also a good solution.

Gregg & Karin Donovan, 8307 Creekstone Circle, were in attendance and agreed to Engineer Him's recommendation to bury the boulders and add reflectors.

Voting Yea to approve a license to use the City's right-of-way for the burying of small boulders and the addition of reflectors for the purpose of protecting a city water meter at 8307 Creekstone Circle: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock, Council Member Schwarz

The motion passed unanimously.

4.B. Discussion of resident's complaint of parking ordinance regarding property at 1319 Glenhilshire Drive

Attorney Bounds said it is very uncommon to do variances for parking ordinances. He said he suggested it be put on the next agenda so Council can discuss resolutions.

Robert Shaw, 1319 Glenhilshire Drive, said that their garage and driveway are not big enough to store all of their vehicles. He stated that there are four houses in his cul-de-sac and the street is wide, allowing room to park on the street. He stated that he has spoken to two (2) of his neighbors and they don't have an issue with

one vehicle parked on the street.

Administrator Blevins said the overnight street parking permit is a temporary solution because it is only renewable three (3) times consecutively.

Council Member Byrne said as long as there are not cars parked on both sides of the street then he doesn't have a problem with it.

Mayor Herron said the ordinance was written to encourage people to utilize their driveways and garages to store their vehicles. He said cars parked on the street make it dangerous to turn in and out to the busy roads like Westview Drive. Mr. Shaw responded that their vehicle is parked at least 100 feet from the intersection with Westview Drive.

Attorney Bounds confirmed that the exception would be for all of Glenhilshire Drive. Council Member Gordy asked if a fire truck can turn around with a car parked on the street. Council Member Byrne said if a parking zone was created on the opposite side of the street, where there are no homes, then the resident side would be open and accessible for first response vehicles. Attorney Bounds stated that this would need to be adopted as an exception to the ordinance.

The Council will include this as an agenda item at next month's regular council meeting.

- 4.C. **Discussion and possible approval of the City of Hilshire Village Ordinance Number 817-2022 amending Ordinance Number 816-2021 providing for the holding of a General Election on May 7, 2022 for the purpose of electing one (1) Mayor and two (2) Council Members, Position one (1) and two (2) for a term of two (2) years and providing details relating to the holding of such elections**

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

Administrator Blevins said the election code requirement that a polling place be open for two (2) twelve-hour days during early voting has been eliminated. She stated that now, the City is only required to be open for four (4) hours. Administrator Blevins said the office will be open at least from 9 AM to 12:00 PM and 1 PM to 5 PM.

Voting Yea: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock, Council Member Schwarz
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 the department is working on completing final items for the Fire Station Renovation such as overhead doors, air conditioning balancing and landscaping.

Commissioner Byrne stated that Bunker Hill is requesting to rejoin the Interlocal

Agreement by May. He said the commission is making the recommendation to bring them back in.

Administrator Blevins said the Fire Department requested that the payments for both fire services and the insurance coop to be made electronically instead of by check.

Commissioner Byrne reminded the Council and attendees that there is still cold weather ahead and generators need to be tested before power outages occur. Council Member Byrne said a reminder to test and maintain generators should be sent to citizens.

7.B. City Administrator's Report

7.C. City Treasurer's Report: Administrator Blevins said the City is paying for multiple utility markings at the same job sites every two weeks. She said often the contractor does not yet have a permit and are not ready to begin work. Council Member Gordy said if the contractor digs within a two (2) week window of the request then the responsibility is theirs, but it's on the City, or service provider, if the lines are not marked when requested.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 8.A. Disbursements
- 8.B. Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting
- 8.C. Check Registers

Voting Yea: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey, Mayor Pro Tem Maddock, Council Member Schwarz
The motion passed unanimously.

9. ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

10. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Pine Creek Lane Street Parking
- Hilshire Green Infrastructure Project (Water, Sewer, Street Paving)
- Glenhilshire Drive Parking Zone

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Voting Yea: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Byrne, Council Member Carey,

Mayor Pro Tem Maddock, Council Member Schwarz
The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Paul Maddock, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Susan Blevins, City Secretary