CITY OF HIDEAWAY, TEXAS

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE

HIDEAWAY LAKE CLUB, INC.

CONFERENCE ROOM

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

The regular public meeting of November 10, 2026, was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Chet Thomas. The Aldermen in attendance were Robinson, George, Braun, Kaufman and Sailers. A quorum was declared. Joann Messina, the Emergency Management Coordinator was in attendance. There was also a group of residents and guests in attendance. Mayor Thomas led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Public Comment, per Texas Government Code Section 551.007, were called for and none were forthcoming from the residents in attendance.

A motion to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting was submitted by Alderman Sailers, seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Sailers presented the Treasurer's Reports, including the current financial update, the current and future financial overview and the proposed 2026-2027 City of Hideaway budget. The city's average monthly income is $12,552 generated from franchise fee income. The average expenses are at least $13,060 per month for Lindale Fire Department, plus additional costs for Quick Books, the city website, legal fees, insurance, etc. This difference between income and expenses is made up by drawing from a savings account.

A motion was made by Alderman George to accept the Treasurer's Reports as presented, seconded by Alderman Robinson and passed unanimously.

It was noted that the Hideaway Club has been collecting excess revenue earmarked for fire protection without informing the City of Hideaway. Therefore, the City of Hideaway has prepared an invoice for Hideaway Lake Club in the amount of $53,500.00. A motion was made by Alderman Braun, and seconded by Alderman Robinson to forward said invoice to the Hideaway Lake Club. The motion passed unanimously.

It was also noted by Alderman Braun, that the financial records should be audited. Mayor Thomas responded that the cost by an outside auditor would be approximately $6,000 to $8,000. Mayor Thomas suggested that we could do a self-audit of our simple Quick Books records and save the cost. This subject will be discussed at the next alderman meeting. Another point of discussion for the next meeting is if the "Club" has increased the amount charged to the residents for fire protection without the required written permission by the "City".

All financial records will be posted to the website at financial year-end.

Peoples Telephone (a not-for-profit co-op, established in 1952) representative spoke about the advantages of their services to Hideaway. Peoples Telephone would install fiber optic lines within a time frame of approximately 18 months installation time. Service requests would be answered locally with a response time of 24 hours. Peoples Internet has installed fiber optics lines in Quitman, Yantis, Emory, Mineola, etc. The following are the fiber connection options that will be available:

<u>200 Mbps for $40</u> per month (basic fit for everyday streaming, browsing, and connecting devices).

<u>1 Gig for $60</u> per month (multiple streams, gaming, work from home)

<u>7 Gig for $90</u> per month (advanced home networks and maximum capacity)

A motion was made and seconded, and approved to work out an agreement with Peoples Telephone to be reviewed by Aldermen Robinson and Kaufman with the assistance of Mayor Thomas.

Alderman Braun has researched software to standardize city records, documents and emails. He recommends Microsoft 365 for ease of use and a reasonable cost of $900 to $1,200 per year which includes government cybersecurity. Alderman George made a motion to go forward with this purchase and process. Alderman Braun seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Fire marshal Jeremy LaRue had previously been requested to determine the ownership of the fire hydrants located within the City of Hideaway. It was determined that Undine owns all the fire hydrant and is responsible for maintenance and repair of same. LaRue also reported that Hideaway has a fire rating for insurance purposes of ISO3. There will be further discussion of this issue at the next meeting.

Mayor Thomas has been in discussion with PUC regarding our water rates. According to documents received from PUC, City of Hideaway did not cede water rates to the PUC, so we therefore have the right to negotiate water rates with Undine. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Smith County Animal Control is willing to enter into a contract with the City of Hideaway to remove two (2) stray animals per month at a cost of $75 per animal or $125 if the animal needs to be euthanized. If no animal is picked up, then there is no cost. This contract will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Vander Giessen, Secretary