

CITY OF HIDEAWAY, TEXAS
BOARD OF ALDERMAN
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
HIDEAWAY LAKE CLUB, INC.
CONFERENCE ROOM
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 @ 5:00 PM

The public meeting of September 14, 2022, was called to order at 5:00 PM by Mayor Ray Hutcheson. The Aldermen in attendance were Kashouty, Sailers, Hackstaff and Ferrell. Alderman Horn was in attendance via phone. The Emergency Preparedness Advisor, Steve Johnston, was also in attendance. There was a small group of residents in attendance. Mayor Hutcheson led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and then said a short prayer.

Mayor Hutcheson opened the Public Budget Hearing for the fiscal year October 2022 through September 2023 by thanking Alderman Sailers for all of her many hours of work bringing the accounts up to date and developing the budget. Mayor Hutcheson led a question-and-answer time. Alderman Kashouty suggested several items be placed on different lines. These changes are for ease in reading the budget and will not affect the totals.

The representative from Oncor, Tom Trimble, spoke briefly on how our Oncor franchise fee is calculated. He explained that total kilowatt hours are used to calculate our franchise fee, not the number of users, times a multiplier. The number of kilowatt hours used was fewer this past year than in previous years,

thus our income was also down. Mayor Hutcheson thanked Mr. Trimble for his time and contribution to the board's understanding of this issue.

Further budget discussion was deferred until later in the meeting so that LVFD Chief, Joe Yeakley, could explain and discuss the rising cost of fire protection for our community. Chief Yeakley described the increasing costs of fire trucks, personal protection equipment, call volume, training, back-up generators and fire station maintenance and expansion. Because of these issues, our cost for fire protection has risen to \$359,169.60 for the budget year 2022-2023. Alderman Kashouty proposed a flat rate payment of \$300,000 per year for five years which was rejected by Chief Yeakley due to the fact that every contract with LVFD must be on a percentage basis. Mayor Hutcheson thanked Chief Yearly for his input and his time attending the meeting.

Mayor Hutcheson than asked if there were any questions or comments from the persons in attendance. Alderman Kashouty questioned why the ROW payment line items was not exactly 20% of the franchise fee income. Mayor Hutcheson explained that the budget is a balanced budget, not an exact budget and that since the franchise fee income varies, the 20% ROW payment also fluctuates. So, the ROW payment is a close estimate of the expected payment.

There were no further questions. The Public Meeting was then adjourned and the Special Public Meeting was opened.

Alderman Farrell made a motion to accept the October 2022 through September 2023 budget as presented. Alderman Kashouty seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Alderman Sailers was again thanked for her diligence, hard work and many hours she spent preparing the budget.

The Budget Ordinance #43-9-14-22 approving the budget, was adopted unanimously by the Council.

Alderman Hackstaff presented the issue of election costs. Alderman Hackstaff researched the cost of conducting our own election versus having a joint election with Smith County. Alderman Hackstaff detailed the paper ballot costs which included paying volunteers between \$8.00 and \$9.00 per hour as mandated by the State of Texas, ballots, an ADA voting machine as mandated by the State of Texas, training classes for election volunteers and hiring an election judge. We would also incur any liability involving the election. Per Alderman Hackstaff's cost analysis, to do our own election with paper ballots would be \$7,664 vs. \$8,000 to hold a joint election with other cities in Smith County. Jack Smith, who is a retired municipal judge, was acknowledged for his assistance in the decision. It was decided to continue holding a joint election with Smith County hence no vote was necessary. Mayor Hutcheson thanked Alderman Hackstaff for her diligent research and presentation.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Hutcheson at 6:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Vander Giessen

Secretary

