

CITY OF HIDEAWAY, TEXAS
BOARD OF ALDERMAN
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
HIDEAWAY LAKE CLUB, INC.
CONFERENCE ROOM
Friday, September 29, 2023 @ 12:00 PM

The public meeting of September 29, 2023, was called to order at 12:00 PM by Mayor Red Brown. The Aldermen in attendance were Kashouty, Sailers, Hackstaff, Horn and Demers. Pat Fengler, Web Administrator and Steve Johnston, Emergency Preparedness Director were also in attendance. There was also a small group of residents in attendance. Mayor Pro-tem Demers led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Mayor Brown saying a short prayer.

Mayor Brown called for the Open Public Hearing for the budget year October 2023 through September 2024, inviting the residents to speak to the budget items.

1. The line item in the amount of \$400 for the website renewal was discussed, and deemed necessary and reasonable.
2. It was noted that Mayor Brown is negotiating with the City of Lindale in order to receive the most favorable rate possible for fire protection in light of rising expenses. Discussion was led by Mayor Brown on a more equitable way to divide the fire protection fee based on the value of the house rather than the number of houses. Thus, a house with a lesser

value would pay less for fire protection than a house with a higher value. This item will need further study.

3. A line item was added to the budget in the amount of \$20,000 for animal control. Mayor Brown on behalf of the City of Hideaway is investigating a contract with Smith County for animal control. He stressed that this is a safety and security need to protect the residents of Hideaway, not only for domesticated animals but for our wild animal population.

Alderman Horn made a motion to close the public meeting at 12:25. Alderman Hackstaff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Brown made a motion to open the Regular Session Public Meeting, seconded by Alderman Demers, and approved unanimously.

The Minutes of the May 10, 2023 Regular Public Meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Alderman Sailors. The following items were discussed relative to the Proposed budget for October 2023 through September 2024.

1. Membership in the East Texas Council of Government was questioned as to its benefit vs. cost. Alderman Horn will research what benefit the City of Hideaway receives.
2. QuickBooks renewal at \$1,200 was discussed. It was determined that the extra cost of saving the accounting information in the cloud compared to a server is much more beneficial as far as remote accessibility and security.
3. Computer line item in the amount of \$750 was included in the budget because of the age and condition of the current computer.
4. Animal control line item was again discussed by the aldermen with questions as to who is responsible for payment, the Hideaway City or Hideaway Club. Mayor Brown answered that the City is responsible

since Smith County will only negotiate and sign a contract with a city entity. Various other animal issues were discussed.

Alderman Demers made a motion to approve the budget as presented, and Alderman Horn seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously to approve the budget for October 2023 through September 2024.

Alderman Kashouty, Investment Officer, presented the Investment Report as follows:

On or about September 12, I ordered the Texas Bank & Trust Wealth Management (TBTWM) Department to purchase:

1. An \$80,000 T-bill discounted to \$77,938.93 maturing at \$80,000 with a yield of 5.468213% on March 7, 2024;
2. A \$100,000 CD through Schwab maturing on October 1, 2024 with a yield of 5.25% with semi-annual payments;
3. A \$100,000 CD through Morgan Stanley maturing on March 13, 2025 with a yield of 5.25% with semi-annual payments;
4. I left approximately \$20,000 in the money market with TBTWM with a “current” rate of 5.4% and paying interest monthly.
5. Also, by comparison, the 90-day T-bill is currently yielding about 5.45%.

Further discussion was held regarding the animal control issue with emphasis placed again that this first and foremost is a safety and security issue. This issue needs further study with both the Club and City.

Steve Johnston, Safety Director, is working with Smith County Emergency Management to enhance the emergency plan for the City of Hideaway.

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Vander Giessen

Secretary