

CITY OF HIDEAWAY, TEXAS
BOARD OF ALDERMAN
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
HIDEAWAY LAKE CLUB, INC.
CONFERENCE ROOM MEMBER SERVICES BLDG.
Monday, August 23, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

The regular public meeting of August 23, 2021 was called to order at 2:00 PM by Mayor Ray Hutcheson. In addition to the Mayor, Aldermen Mullins, Ferrell, and Hoffman were present. The Mayor led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Then Mayor Hutcheson said a short prayer. Guests were Jim Carras, Elaine Yenne, Sue Royappa, Bill Kashouty, Pat Bonds, Gayle Pepper, and Bill Rumsch.

The Mayor then asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the last meeting. Since there were none, Alderman Mullins moved that they be approved and Alderman Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor then asked Dr. Sue Royappa to give her report on Covid-19. She reported that in the last 30 days there have been 21 new cases here. She also reported that people that have had the infection can get infected again and are being asked to get the vaccine. Those that have had the vaccine and those that have had the infection will spread the infection at a much reduced rate than those that have not been vaccinated or haven't yet had the illness. With this new Delta variant, getting vaccinated is even more important. She said that

99.999% of those that have had the vaccine and have gotten sick with the new variant have not died. She said that her main message is “To please get vaccinated”.

Alderman Hoffman was asked to give his financial report. He said that everything balances. No one had any questions. Alderman Hoffman moved that the financials be accepted as printed and Alderman Ferrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor then asked Alderman Hoffman to give us an update from his report on how to pay for the increasing cost of Fire Protection. The Mayor asked everyone to look at the handout he had passed out previously about how to pay for the Fire Protection. He is proposing a \$.10 per \$100 of home value as a property tax. This revenue would enable the city to pay for fire protection and other items from the city treasury, such as a storm siren, expenses incurred for septic system regulation and other expenses in the future. The Mayor then called everyone’s attention to the sheet showing tax rates of surrounding cities. Lindale has a tax rate of \$.47 per \$100 of value. Tyler has a tax rate of \$.26 per \$100 of value. His proposal of \$.10 is much less than any cities in the area. The Mayor then asked for comments.

Bill Kashouty read his comments and said that when the city was formed, the Board of Aldermen signed a pledge to not involve the City in any of the Club’s business and to not raise any taxes. He didn’t feel that the City had thought everything through. The Mayor responded to several of his suggestions and admitted that some of his suggestions hadn’t been considered.

Gayle Pepper spoke next. He said that the reason we are in this situation is because originally the Board was in charge of Fire Protection. The volunteer fire department failed because it was easier for men to go to Lindale to work. He asked if the City had any discussions with the Board about the proposed tax. He admitted that the present Board of Aldermen is under no obligation to do

what the original Board of Aldermen said they would do. The Mayor said that things have changed in the City in 20 years. That is why this Board of Aldermen is trying to plan for the needs of the city in the future not just for present day fire protection.

Bill Rumsch was strongly against any tax. This subject came up when he was on the Board of Aldermen. He was not against a sewer system but thought fees would have to be raised to do that. He was reminded that the Board doesn't want anything to do with a sewer system.

The Mayor then called upon Marjorie Ferrell about the paperwork to have an "Authorized Septic Agent" in Hideaway. She moved that "the City employ the law firm of Lloyd Gosselink with respect to applying for and obtaining required TCEQ municipal designation as an authorized agent for OSSF regulation which will include drafting an ordinance with more stringent requirements than TCEQ rules." Aldermen Mullins seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. The Mayor will sign the contract and it will be mailed back to the law firm.

The Mayor then adjourned the meeting at 3:45pm.

Respectively submitted,

Judy Blossom, City Secretary

