

CITY OF HIDEAWAY, TEXAS
BOARD OF ALDERMAN
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
HIDEAWAY LIKE CLUB, INC.
MEMBER SERVICES BUILDING-CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 @ 4:00PM

The public budget hearing and special public meeting of September 17, 2019 was called to order at 4:00 PM by Mayor Ray Hutcheson. In addition to Mayor Hutcheson, those present were Aldermen Demers, Samples, Rumsch, Bonds, and Peacock. Guests attending included Anita Anderson, Beverly Guthrie, Joe Dillard, Bob Craig, Ron Strickland, Jerry Mullins, Omer Adams, Doug Hoffman, Sandy McRoberts, and Elaine Yenne. Mayor Hutcheson asked Alderman Demers to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. This was followed by a silent prayer.

Mayor Hutcheson led the discussion of the Open Public Budget Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2019 through 2020. The City budget is a simple one that the income is based on the franchise fees from the public utility companies. The income for this upcoming fiscal year will be down due to a state law change that will affect Suddenlink's franchise fees. The expenses for our fire protection continue to go up because it is based upon the appraised value of the properties in Hideaway. The City pays this bill and is reimbursed by the club for the portion that the city cannot pay. Aldermen Rumsch then explained all the expenses on the proposed budget. Mayor Hutcheson asked for any discussion or questions. Questions were asked about RED Alert and our ROW payment. These questions were answered. The Mayor then adjourned the public budget hearing and opened the special public meeting.

The Mayor then asked for a motion to approve the budget as presented. The motion was made by Alderman Demers and seconded by Alderman Bonds. The motion passed unanimously. Then the budget ordinance was signed by the Aldermen and their vote was recorded.

The Mayor asked for the approval of the minutes from the last meeting held July 18, 2019. These had been received electronically by the Aldermen. There were no suggested changes to the minutes and Alderman Samples moved that they be accepted as written. Aldermen Rumsch seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor then asked Alderman Peacock to present the Waste Water Study to the council. The goal of this committee was to evaluate the current status of the management of waste water at Hideaway. The engineer from House Engineering that was hired by the city did an extensive study. He made recommendations for the city to consider. The team conducted a survey of the residents of Hideaway. The team also conducted three focus groups. The conclusion of these focus groups was that they were very enthusiastic that the city pursues a path toward sewer. The report contains 6 options for the city to consider. These options range from doing nothing, to educating the residents, to a beneficial use of the septic water, to disbanding the city and asking Lindale to incorporate Hideaway, and the final was sewer. The team does not know what the cost per resident would be until it is know what kind of involvement Fair Corporation would have in the cost. It would also depend on how many residents participate. All options were considered. The committee feels that they did what they were asked to do. Their report is not the final answer, but only the beginning. It is a good start. The Mayor then asked for questions and discussion. Alderman Demers stated that he did not feel it was the responsibility of the city to manage waste water, but the job of the Board of Directors. He also didn't agree with the cost shown in the report. Alderman Demers stated he felt that if the recommendation to hire a Septic Inspector to report to the city were implemented the city would have to pay that individual. The city has no way to pay an employee other than to establish a tax to pay the salary and he would not support a tax on Hideaway residents. Alderman Rumsch agreed. Aldermen Bonds mentioned that the council needs to decide if the city is going to move forward with the recommendation from the committee to set up a task force. Aldermen Rumsch asked if there were any grants available. Aldermen Bonds said that back in 2011 he found that the income at Hideaway was too large to be considered for a grant. It was discussed that Fair Corporation would probably help with setting up bank financing. Other issues were discussed.

The Mayor then asked Aldermen Peacock to make his motion. He made the motion that the Hideaway Lake Waste Water Planning Team final report be accepted by the City of Hideaway Board of Aldermen and be made available to all the citizens of Hideaway. It is also the recommendation of the Hideaway Lake Waste Water Planning Team that the Mayor appoint a task force existing of a minimum of 11 Hideaway members including at least one member of the Board of Directors and one City Aldermen. The task force will use the final report to implement the recommendations of the team as stated on page 55 of the report and the team recommends that the City fund all efforts of the task force to implement the recommendations

of the Planning Team. Alderman Bonds seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the vote was called for. The motion passed 3 to 2, with Aldermen Demers and Rumsch in opposition.

The next item was for the approval of the Smith County 9-1-1 budget for 2019-2020 fiscal years. The motion was made by Aldermen Bonds to approve the proposed fiscal year 2019-2020 budget of Smith County 9-1-1 Communication District. The motion was seconded by Aldermen Demers. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote of approval.

Then Mayor Hutcheson asked for Aldermen Demers to present the updated ROW lease agreement proposed by Fair Industries. The original lease was between Fair Industries and the City back in 2001 when the city was formed. It allowed Hideaway to collect franchise fees. Hideaway had to pay Fair Industries 25% of what was collected from all franchises except Crystal Systems. In the new lease they will retain the rights to a Potable Water System or Sewer System and, Hideaway will pay 20% of all franchise fees (including Crystal Systems) to Fair Industries. It was moved by Aldermen Bonds and seconded by Aldermen Samples to sign the lease as written. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Mayor asked if there were any items from the Council that did not require a vote. There were none.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Hutcheson at 5:05pm.

Respectively submitted,

Judy Blossom

City Secretary

