



**CITY OF HEDWIG VILLAGE, TEXAS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016
6:30 P.M. - 955 PINEY POINT ROAD**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brian Muecke called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Mayor Brian Muecke

City Councilmembers:

William Johnson

Carrol McGinnis

Barry Putterman

Bob Wiener

Matt Woodruff

Lane Standley, Building Official

Lisa Modisette, Assistant City Secretary

Absent: Kelly Johnson, City Administrator/City Secretary-Treasurer
David Gott, Police Chief
Alan Petrov, City Attorney

2. PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was opened at 6:36 p.m.

- A. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive and consider input and comments regarding the tax rate of \$0.252500/\$100 valuation that has been proposed.

Mayor Muecke explained the budget process and the PowerPoint presentation. He stated two budgets were created. One budget has no tax rate increase and the other budget has an increased tax rate to fund infrastructure. Councilmembers voted unanimously for the budget with the tax increase.

John Lisenby stated he has been building in the villages for the past 30 years. He is currently building several houses in Hedwig Village. He stated he has lived in the villages for many years. He stated infrastructure maintenance is critical for future growth. He stated it was very important that a municipality have an infrastructure replacement plan in order to have a positive impact on property values. He stated as a taxpayer he was in favor of the infrastructure plan. He stated the city's drainage plans are critical.

Larry Opalka, 805 Brogden, stated he has lived in Hedwig Village for 18 years. He is against the proposed tax increase. He stated the process the increase is taking is

inconsistent with logical thinking. He stated the proposed drainage study is inappropriate. Studies have been done in the past. He stated the drainage committee should consolidate previous studies; the city should not have to pay for consolidation of the studies but rather it could be done by residents. He stated the methodology is flawed. He also stated the drainage committee does not have an engineer as a member.

Aliza Dutt, 811 Lochtyne Way, stated she is against the proposed tax increase. She stated she is proud of the city's lower tax rate and was a major reason she moved to Hedwig Village. She said raising taxes is not the only way to generate revenue for drainage projects and other programs. She is worried about a "tax and spend" approach. She said Hedwig Village should collaborate with the other villages and streamline expenses.

Krista Parker, 8 Stonegate, stated she has been a resident since 2000. She stated she is in favor of the proposed tax increase. Flooding has increasingly gotten worse. She said the city must look forward, not just the current year, in order to promote growth. She stated her opinion that the city has not done enough to correct drainage issues in recent years.

Cornelius Hoggendam, 938 Moss Springs, thanked Council for the freeway noise reduction. He stated the city must keep the ditches clean, water will flow in a clean ditch.

Geyer Dybesland, 5 Crestwood Estates, is opposed to the proposed tax increase. He stated there is no specific purpose for the increase. He stated the drainage plans are vague and residents want to know exactly where the funds will be spent. He stated he chose to live in Hedwig Village because of the low tax rate.

Damir Vrcek, 3 Stonegate, stated he is an 18 year resident of Hedwig Village and a resource member of the drainage committee. He stated he is an engineer. He stated the proposed drainage study's scope is quite detailed and will include consolidation of the previous studies. He listed past developments that affect Hedwig Village such as Metro National Development on the west side on the city, HEB shopping center at Bunker Hill, and the expansion of I-10. He stated the proposed drainage study would address these developments as well as address the future. He stated the committee has been in communication with the other villages and a joint study is possible. He said Soldier's Creek needs to be widened and deepened and work needs to be done to control weeds.

Janet Smith, 11760 Taylorcrest, stated she was not opposed to the proposed tax increase if a detailed plan is presented to residents. However, since no plan exists she is opposed to the tax increase.

Dr. Laurence Abrams, 711 Echo Lane, is opposed to the proposed tax increase. He stated there are no specific plans. He said council seems to be more concerned with decorations and that money should have been used for drainage.

Christian Gibson stated he is a real estate developer and an investor in the villages. He said now is not a good time to increase taxes. He stated another study will not stop a flood. Abatement is the solution.

Peggy Hemus, 711 Glen Echo, stated she is against the proposed tax increase.

Jim Gustafson, 11710 Spriggs Way, stated he had no comment. He signed up to speak in error.

Connie Gustafson, 11710 Spriggs Way, stated her concerns about the proposed tax increase have already been addressed.

Andrea Hermann, 930 Karos Lane, stated she is a 20 year resident. She asked for a timeline to complete the drainage study. She stated the city is proposing to collect funds ahead of the study. She asked what the city will do with the funds until the study is complete. She asked what the legal limit was for a tax increase. She asked if the city will raise taxes again next year.

Sue Speck, 11751 Cawdor Way, stated she was speaking on behalf of a fellow Cawdor Way resident, Yulia Hamilton, who was not able to attend the meeting tonight. Ms. Hamilton wrote a letter which Mayor Speck read to council. Ms. Hamilton stated the letter sent out by Mayor Muecke was crafted in a vague manner. Ms. Hamilton via her letter asked for the supporting data to support the statements made in the letter. Ms. Hamilton stated in her letter the drainage projects need to be defined first and get the needed approvals from the other neighboring entities then the city should discuss the possibility of a tax increase.

Brian Hoggendam, 807 Lochtyne Way, stated funds should be received in such a way to earmark and restrict for drainage use only.

Amy Hinnant, 11402 Holidan Way, a resident since 2001, stated the economy does not support a tax increase. She suggested determine another way of accomplishing the drainage goals that would cost less.

Frank Hinnant, 11402 Holidan Way, stated he opposed a tax increase.

Michael Shebay, 11703 Woodsage Drive, stated the ability to absorb water has been decreased due to larger homes being built and trees being cut down. He asked if the city imposed a penalty on removing a tree without a permit. He suggested issuing bonds would be a better funding solution. The tax rate would increase but in smaller increments over a longer period of time.

Charles Kabele, 11400 Dunbeath Drive, a resident since 2014, stated he is opposed to the tax increase. He stated he understood why the city needs the funds but there are no specific plans.

Public hearing was closed at 7:47 p.m.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED FY 2017 BUDGET

Mayor Muecke discussed several of the questions and concerns raised by the resident during the public hearing. He appreciated their concern.

Mayor Muecke stated that council sets a tax rate on a yearly basis to fund the city's operations. He stated the proposed tax increase is not a permanent tax rate. He stated citizens have a petition process in which an election could roll the tax rate back to the rate the city currently operates with.

Mayor Muecke stated the proposed increase in funds would be spent on infrastructure, specifically drainage issues, within Hedwig Village. He stated the city has plans for drainage work on Magdalene, Stonegate, and Hunter's Branch. He discussed the area developments that adversely affect Hedwig Village. He stated the proposed drainage study would assist the city in prioritizing known drainage plans.

Councilmember Putterman stated councilmembers have heard the resident comments at the public hearing as well as individually in person. He stated he was in favor of the proposed tax increase. Drainage issues must be addressed. He stated council makes decisions pertaining to the budget and how to allocate revenue. He stated a majority of comments are directed toward drainage issues. He stated the residents who requested assistance with drainage issues have not come to the prior budget meetings to speak. He stated the proposed budget can be divided into four sections. One section is personnel - he stated personnel pay in the public sector lagged behind pay in the private sector. In the future the city will have to vote on whether the Village Fire Department receives a new building or a major remodel. Hedwig Village city buildings are in good shape, the city issued long term bonds to pay for new buildings. He stated drainage solutions are complicated, intergovernmental, public, private, and may require cooperation from residents of Hunters Creek. He stated the city needs and does not have a reserve fund to deal with the drainage issues. He stated the city needs an accurate current study in order to enter into possible partnerships with other entities to deal with the drainage issues. Possible drainage solutions include collaborations with other entities and possible purchase of land downstream to free restrictions placed on the villages concerning the amount of water the villages can put into Buffalo Bayou or Hunter's Branch.

Councilmember Wiener stated he has lived in Hedwig Village since 1990. He stated he serves on council because he feels a civic responsibility. He stated several residents attended council meetings after the April 2016 flood asking for assistance and expressing concern with the flooding. He discussed major development in the area that affects Hedwig Village. He stated the proposed 2017 Budget does include smaller drainage projects. He stated the money raised by the 2016 Proposed Tax Increase will be spent in a timely manner on drainage issues.

Councilmember McGinnis stated the \$275,000 price tag for the proposed study is just a cap. The city will not spend more than \$275,000. He stated the proposed drainage study will incorporate previous drainage studies Hedwig Village has done as well as drainage studies other entities have done. He stated the city can suspend the drainage study at any point. He stated the city engineer will include a possible list of drainage projects.

Councilmember Johnson stated council has been and will continue to listen to the residents. The council meeting on September 30, 2016 will be the meeting council adopts the tax rate, up to the proposed tax rate of \$0.252500. He stated the residents have the option to petition for a rollback election. He stated the residents who flooded in April 2016 did not come to either of the two public hearing held so far. He stated these residents came to previous council meetings and appealed to council for assistance with drainage.

Councilmember Woodruff stated it is important to implement a cost effective solution to the drainage issues. He stated area conditions have changed over time. The city has an option to buy land downstream for detention but that option has not been considered. He stated the city will spend money but only with a study done by a certified engineer. He asked the residents if they believe drainage is an urgent issue.

Mayor Muecke stated the city needs to be prepared to deal with drainage and infrastructure issues.

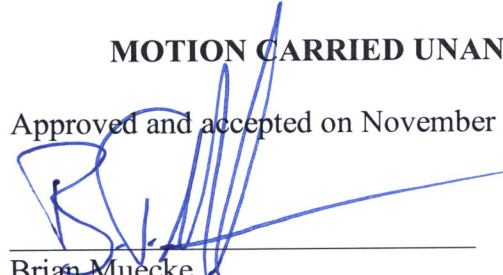
4. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember McGinnis moved, Councilmember Woodruff seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Councilmembers Johnson, McGinnis, Putterman, Wiener and Woodruff voted "Aye", "Noes" none.


MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approved and accepted on November 10, 2016.



Brian Muecke
Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Modisette
Assistant City Secretary