



**CITY OF HEDWIG VILLAGE, TEXAS  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016  
9:00 A.M. - 955 PINEY POINT ROAD**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brian Muecke called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Present: Mayor Brian Muecke

City Councilmembers:

William Johnson

Carrol McGinnis

Barry Putterman

Bob Wiener

Kelly Johnson, City Administrator/City Secretary-Treasurer

Lane Standley, Building Official

Lisa Modisette, Assistant City Secretary

Absent: Matt Woodruff, Councilmember

David Gott, Police Chief

Alan Petrov, City Attorney

**2. PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Muecke explained the budget process. He explained that the tax rate is voted on a yearly basis. He also explained revenue sources and city expenditures. He stated the city has several budget options to choose from. One option is a \$5.2 million dollar budget to maintain city services at the same level as last year. Another budget option would be to fund the \$5.2 million dollar budget and collect additional funds in the amount of \$700,000 for infrastructure projects, such as drainage and road maintenance. Drainage would be a priority for the additional funds.

- A. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive and consider public input and comments regarding the adoption of the proposed 2017 Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2017, ending December 31, 2017.

Public Hearing opened at 9:17 a.m.

Claude Jenks, 2 Hunter's Branch, stated the tax letter sent out by the mayor has been the only form of communication from the city and that the letter was received late. He stated

his lot flooded and a small amount of water got into his house. He stated the work on Beinhorn has had a negative effect on his drainage. He is against the tax increase but stated if the city must have the increase to fix the drainage, then the city should have it.

Claudia Spang, 826 Bunker Hill Road, a 56 year resident, stated the tax letter was received late. She asked if residents with the over 65 exemption would be affected?

Mayor Muecke answered no, the over 65 exemption would not change. He stated that fixing the drainage problems would be a priority.

Diana Kopelman, 11706 Denise Drive, stated the flooding has gotten worse and worse. She worries her home will flood every time it rains. She stated more development in the Memorial City Mall and City Centre areas have increased the flooding in our city. She stated she is willing to pay more to address the drainage issues.

Danny Stewart, 938 Deepwell Lane, a 10 year resident, stated he is against the tax increase. He agrees flooding issues needs to be addressed but thinks council needs to fund the solution another way. He stated the drains need to be kept clear during rain events.

Jeanne Cordell, 11743 Skene Way, 60 year resident, stated the city should try to address the drainage issue. She questioned the professional expenses in the amount of \$235,655 for fiscal year 2017. She stated the money should not be used to pay somebody to investigate and instead use the money to address other issues. She stated previous studies have been done in the past. She also mentioned the drainage ditch on Skene Way. She stated water does not flow into the ditch because the land around it is too high.

Ginger Neimann, 6 Robinwood, 13 year resident, asked why collect funds before a study is complete. She stated large capital improvements should require a bond issue. She stated the city does not have a specific plan to address the drainage issues.

Tom Speck, 11751 Cawdor Way, stated budgets need to be steady year to year. He stated he is not opposed to using the reserve funds in the debt fund account. He stated he was opposed to the tax increase. He stated that in the proposed 2017 Budget the drainage reserve of \$500,000, with no specific projects, equals a five cent tax increase. Also, \$100,000 for a new drainage study equals one cent tax increase. The proposed 2017 Budget could be reduce by the six cents, as he just mentioned, and not affect city services.

Mary Dubois, 11409 Dunbeath, stated she was not opposed to solving the drainage issues. She suggested a joint co-operation with other villages and possibly Metro National for a regional drainage plan. She stated the water gets too deep on Dunbeath during a rain event and a slight rise impedes the water flow to Piney Point.

Shirley Rouse, 714 Glen Echo Lane, stated she was opposed to the tax increase. She stated there is money, \$100,000 already in the proposed budget for drainage and \$260,000 transferred from debt service, in the proposed 2017 budget that could be used to fund drainage projects.

Pat Murphy, 11510 Echo Hollow, 18 year resident, stated he was in favor of the tax increase. He stated council is talking about future plans and taking a pro-active stance. He stated the city needs to have the funds available to deal with flooding issues.

Harry Craig, 839 Merridel, stated the city is behind in flooding and infrastructure funding. He stated he was in favor of the tax increase. He stated water is flowing into the city from outside the city. He stated the city should set aside funds to address drainage issues.

Public hearing for the proposed 2017 Budget was closed at 9:53 a.m.

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

Public hearing for the tax rate was opened at 9:54 a.m.

Diana Kopelman, 11706 Denise Drive, stated she appreciated Mayor Muecke speaking with her concerning her questions about the budget. She stated she works in the insurance field and would like to review and address the insurance and retirement increases. She stated again she believed the funding for drainage and flooding control is necessary. She stated she liked that the city was try to be pro-active on drainage.

Sue V Speck, 11751 Cawdor Way, asked that the previous comments concerning drainage be included in this section of the minutes.

Refer to the agenda item 2A for comments concerning drainage and tax rate.

Public hearing for the tax rate was closed at 9:57 a.m.

### **3. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED FY 2017 BUDGET**

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

Mayor Muecke stated that council will vote on the budget in its entirety at an open meeting on September 30, 2016. He stated that council will have open discussion on any line item or collection of line items that may change on or before that date.

Councilmember Putterman stated that council cannot raise taxes above the tax rate in the published notice.

Mayor Muecke stated council could set a tax rate for 2016 not to exceed \$0.252500.

Mayor Muecke discussed several points raised by the residents during the public hearing. He stated one question was why budget funds now for the city's drainage issues? He answered the city approved a drainage study that will determine what projects the city will be able to work on and will prioritize those projects. The city will not have another opportunity to raise funds for drainage projects for one year, until the budget cycle begins again. He addressed Tom Speck's comment about moving funds from the Debt Fund to pay for drainage work. He stated the city appreciates the fact the funds were in the Debt Fund to assist the city in its credit worthiness. The actual tax increase is 4 cents, not 6 cents as stated by Tom Speck. Mayor Muecke addressed another resident concern about working with other area entities. He stated Jeff Cannon, the City Engineer, will utilize the drainage studies completed by other area entities when Hedwig Village starts their drainage study. Another resident concern addressed by Mayor Muecke was viability of drainage issues. He stated that city will do what it can within its power to assess and fix the drainage problems in Hedwig Village. Mayor Muecke stated the city has received comments via email from residents concerning the tax increase. He addressed Ms. Rouse question concerning access to those comments. He stated a public information request would grant access for anyone to view or request copies of those comments. Mayor Muecke stated the Memorial area has changed over the years and those changes are impacting Hedwig Village during rain events. He stated the city should be pro-active in trying to get ahead of the drainage problem.

Councilmember Wiener stated the intent of the proposed budget which includes funding for drainage issues is to try to improve drainage. During rain events the water flows from Bunker Hill Road into the city. He stated the city has identified smaller drainage projects. The proposed tax increase would generate funds for those smaller projects but does not address the citywide problem. The proposed study would be a current study that would allow the city to approach other entities for possible partnerships and assistance with funding.

Councilmember McGinnis stated the proposed drainage study is intended to be a phased study that will take into account previous Hedwig Village studies and other entity's studies. The proposed study will identify viable projects and the priority of those projects.

Councilmember Putterman stated there is no guarantee for a comprehensive solution to the drainage problem. He stated the city would need an investment to discover any options available involving other jurisdictions. The drainage study would enable Hedwig Village to create partnerships. The proposed drainage fund would lend creditability to Hedwig Village when trying to reach out to the neighboring entities.


#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember McGinnis moved, Councilmember Wiener seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

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

#### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

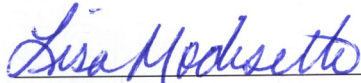
Approved and accepted on November 10, 2016.



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Brian Muecke  
Mayor

ATTEST:



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Lisa Modisette  
Assistant City Secretary