



**CITY OF HEDWIG VILLAGE, TEXAS
REGULAR MONTHLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 15, 2021
6:30 P.M. - 955 PINEY POINT ROAD**

MINUTES

In accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order or Proclamation dated March 13, 2020 and continued by monthly Executive Orders or Proclamations to the most recent Proclamation dated April 5, 2021 relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to minimize face-to-face contact, the City of Hedwig Village held the April 15, 2021 City Council Meeting in person with several participants joining the meeting via Zoom, as noted below.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Muecke called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Present: Mayor Brian T. Muecke

Councilmember Harry J. Folloder
Councilmember Dane Johnson
Councilmember Susan Mathews
Councilmember Shirley Rouse
Councilmember Matt Woodruff

Kelly Johnson, City Admin./Secr.-
Treas.
David Gott, Police Chief
Alan Petrov, City Attorney
Kevin Taylor, Building Official
Evan DuVall, Asst. Building Official
Lisa Modisette, Asst. City Secretary

Absent: None

2. CITIZEN/VISITOR COMMENTS

Anne Retzler, 913 Magdalene Drive, spoke regarding the proposed West Side Paving and Drainage Improvement Project. She stated a public hearing should be held for all residents to give input. The City should consider a drainage project for the areas of the City that are affected by flooding instead of the entire west side of the City. She is concerned about the widening of the streets and the sidewalks. She stated that could lead to loss of green spaces, more concrete, the possibility of damage to tree root systems, and more drive through traffic. She asked why the City was considering the project, what the financing will be, the estimated time frame for completion, and for more general information for the residents. She stated the video of the proposed drainage project stated the west side improvements will direct surface water to flow to the east side of the City. She stated the east side of the City has or had its own flooding issues. Will there be additional drainage work on the east side? She is concerned about lowering the streets. She stated the water will flow through the lowered streets like a river. She asked when did the problem begin, what has already been done, and can the City do anything about the water flowing from the Memorial City Mall area and Bunker Hill Road. She stated those two areas are partially responsible for the flooding issue the City has. She asked how the wider streets would affect the property values.

Spring Branch ISD Tax Office - \$8,660.00	LJA Engineering, Inc. - \$17,898.19
City of Bunker Hill Village - \$5,456.56	Houston Custom Metal - \$5,460.00
Accutek - \$2,930.95	Helfman Ford - \$63,932.00
Johnson Petrov - \$3,772.82	Mesa Mechanical, Inc.- \$3,001.61

Motion was made by Councilmember Mathews and seconded by Councilmember Rouse to sever the December 9, 2020 Special City Council Meeting minutes from the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion was made by Councilmember Folloder and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the consent agenda with the removal of the December 9, 2020 Special City Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councilmember Rouse requested corrections to the December 9, 2020 Special City Council Meeting Minutes.

Councilmember Mathews requested corrections to the December 9, 2020 Special City Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Folloder and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the December 9, 2020 Special City Council Meeting Minutes with the corrections. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. REPORTS

A. Financial Report – March 2021 (before audit) – Kelly Johnson, City Admin, Sec. Treas.

Kelly Johnson discussed the following:

- The City has \$5.1M in restricted funds and \$4.1M in available funds for a total of \$9.2M.
- The City is fully collateralized.
- Sales tax has increased eight percent for March 2021 compared to the same time period in 2020. The sales tax is down eight percent for the year compared to the same time period in 2020.
- The City is twenty five percent through the budget year.
- Revenues for 2021 are approximately sixty three percent of budget and expenditures for 2021 are approximately twenty two percent of budget.
- The collection rate for the ad valorem tax is ninety seven percent through the end of March 2021.

B. Police Report – March 2021 Crime Report & Statistics – Chief David Gott

Chief Gott discussed the following:

- There was a total of fifteen crimes for March 2021.
- Do not leave personal belongings in a vehicle. The risk of a vehicle break in is much greater if personal belongings are visible.
- Lock your vehicle even when at home.
- Tyler Technologies has started the process of converting from Cardinal to Incode.

Councilmember Woodruff asked if the department has taser training. He stated trainings minimize mistakes.

Chief Gott stated the department uses two training options. The simulator option has both gun and taser training simulations. The department also uses in-person taser training which is extensive. The department has an extensive taser policy as well. He thanked City Council for their ongoing support.

Councilmember Mathews asked if the multiple vehicle burglaries on March 31 were related.

Chief Gott stated three suspects have been arrested and property from the vehicle burglaries have been recovered.

Councilmember Folloder asked, and Chief Gott confirmed, if the body cameras worn by the police officers are activated if the duty weapon or the taser is drawn.

C. Fire Department – Councilmember Folloder, Commissioner, & Bill Johnson, Alt. Commissioner

Councilmember Folloder discussed the following:

- The department has responded to one hundred calls in Hedwig Village for the year. Twenty nine of those calls were for life threatening incidents.
- The department has responded to eight life threatening fire calls this year.
- Response times for Hedwig Village are well below the national average for fire, medical, and advanced life-saving calls.
- The department is fully staffed.
- The renovation project is on schedule. There were several issues found when the sheetrock was removed. There was mold growing in the walls. The mold had to be remediated. There was also an issue with the foundation. Part of the foundation has failed and needs to be addressed. These expenses were not in the construction budget.
- The department has started the 2022 budget process.
- The department is on budget.

D. Beautification – Kathryn Schenk, Chairperson

Kathryn Schenk discussed the following:

- The sod was laid down on Gaylord Drive between Piney Point Road and Echo Lane. Terry Vick is watering the new grass often.
- All City signs have been installed. The committee is waiting for the electric to be installed for the lights. Landscaping will begin soon after the lights are installed.

Mayor Muecke stated the Beautification Committee consists of a wonderful group of self-starters. They identify opportunities, create a plan, and follow through on that plan to completion. He thanked all the committee members.

E. Mayor – Monthly Report – Mayor Brian Muecke

Mayor Muecke discussed the following:

- There is no report or update from the legislative session. There are several bills in committees that the City should follow closely.
- Mayor Muecke, Councilmember Woodruff, and Jeff Cannon, City Engineer from LJA Engineering, Inc., met with Harris County Commissioner Tom Ramsey regarding the proposed West Side Paving and Drainage Project. There is a possibility of partial financial support from Harris County for the drainage project.

F. Building Official – Kevin Taylor, Building Official, and Evan DuVall, Assistant Building Official

Kevin Taylor discussed the following:

- Moody Project – Tenant improvements have begun for Milk and Cookies and Belong Bakery. The work should be completed toward the end of the year. Tenant improvements for a coffee and wine shop have been approved for the ground floor. Tenant improvements for a bank has been approved for the fourth floor.
- Memorial High School Main Campus – The student drive traffic light on Gaylord Drive is operational. The City is reviewing the latest comments regarding the easement from LevCal, the property owner where the easement is located. The contractors for the main school building have begun mechanical, electrical, and plumbing on all four floors of the new building. Preliminary work has begun on the new student traffic light on Echo Lane. The City has not received word on the redesign of the existing traffic light at Echo Lane and Gaylord Drive.
- A conditional permit has been issued for a coffee shop at the corner of Piney Point Road and the I-10 Frontage Road. The improvements have begun and the existing canopy cover has been removed.

- Small Nodes – The City has issued the first round of comments for street light small nodes in compliance with the City’s Design Manual and ordinance. These comments have to be addressed prior to any permit being issued.
- Variance Request – The variance request has been approved for 9135 Katy Freeway to allow continuance of the non-conforming status. A permit has been issued for the parking lot to be restriped as it was previously. It is expected the restriping will take place this month.

Councilmember Rouse asked if the current small node work is connected to the small node work done previously in the City.

Kevin Taylor, Building Official, stated the current work is a separate project but is connected to the work done previously in the City.

G. Planning & Zoning Commission – Tom Roth, Chairperson, and Councilmember Susan Mathews, Council Liaison

Councilmember Mathews discussed the following:

- Several residents spoke at the April Planning and Zoning (P&Z) meeting regarding fences, such as allowing fences in the front of a residence.
- There was discussion on developments.
- There was discussion on P&Z’s focus moving forward.
- There was discussion on an updated comprehensive plan.

Councilmember Mathews stated this Council meeting would be her last as she was retiring from public life. She has served the City for nine years, first on P&Z, as a member then as Chair, and finishing on City Council. She thanked all members who have served on P&Z. P&Z accomplished a lot during her tenure.

- Consolidated and updated business uses,
- Updated parking ratios in the business districts,
- Drafted and recommended the Planned Unit Development (PUD) enabling ordinance, then revised the ordinance after it was passed by City Council,
- Drafted and recommended three PUD’s – the Stream Development, the Moody Development, and the Memorial High School Project. All recommended PUDs were approved by City Council.
- Spent quite a bit of time on design guidelines but was unable to finish the document.
- Drafted and recommended a lighting ordinance. The ordinance was approved by City Council.
- A mini architectural design guide was incorporated into the Stream Development PUD.

- Drafted and recommended to allow patio homes in certain business districts.

Councilmember Mathews requested City Council fill the vacancies on P&Z. P&Z would like to have a workshop with City Council to discuss updating the comprehensive plan. She stated she enjoyed working with the Councilmembers and City Staff.

H. City Administrator – Monthly Update – Kelly Johnson, City Admin, Sec.-Treas.

Kelly Johnson discussed the following:

- The Villages Independence Day Festival for this year is undecided. It is possible the parade will be the only portion of the festivities again this year.
- The City will hold a General Election on May 1, 2021.
- Early Voting will be conducted from April 19, 2021 to April 27, 2021, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except for April 22, 2021 and April 27, 2021 which will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- The positions of Mayor and Councilmember Position 1 are contested races. Councilmember Position 5 is uncontested; however, the candidate will still need at least one vote or a vacancy will be created.
 - Mayor – Tom Jinks and Councilmember Matt Woodruff
 - Position 1 – Scott Davis and Mayor Brian T. Muecke
 - Position 5 – Councilmember Shirley Rouse

5. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS – The City Council will discuss and consider possible action of the following:

- A. An Ordinance of the City of Hedwig Village, Texas, amending Article II, Definitions and Interpretation, Section 202, Definitions; and Article V, Zoning Regulations, Section 505, Residential Districts A and C, Subsection B.10, Fences, of the Hedwig Village Planning and Zoning Code for the purpose of revising the regulations related to fences.

Planning and Zoning (P&Z) was unable to complete their discussion to recommend any changes on this topic due to lack of quorum.

Mayor Muecke stated the possibility of taller fences for some areas of the City need to be considered, such as property that abuts the Memorial Villages Water Authority, for example.

Councilmember Woodruff stated City Council is unable to discuss the possibility of amending the fence ordinance regarding front yard fences. He stated the residents were not notified of the possible discussion to allow front yard fences. He did request that P&Z take a comprehensive look at the issue and return with a recommendation.

Mayor Muecke suggested, and Alan Petrov, City Attorney, agreed to liberalize the language in the publication notice to allow for discussion of fences, including front yard fences.

Councilmember Folloder stated a taller fence could be a hazard to the health and safety of the residents if the fence is not structurally sound.

There was no further discussion.

- B. A Resolution by the City of Hedwig Village, Texas suspending the May 3, 2021 effective date of the proposal by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., D/B/A CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas – Houston Division to implement interim GRIP rate adjustments for gas utility investment in 2020 and requiring delivery of this Resolution to the company and legal counsel.

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Rouse to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- C. A Resolution by the City of Hedwig Village, Texas regarding a request from the Village Fire Department Commission to approve an increase in the construction budget by \$200,000 totaling \$5,900,311.50.

Councilmember Folloder stated the Village Fire Department (VFD) fire station renovation has run into several issues. The contingency fund in the renovation budget is almost exhausted. The renovation budget needs an increase of \$200,000 in order to cover the expenses of the additional issues. The foundation in the northeast corner of the building has failed. The sheetrock in the building was not weatherproofed, therefore mold grew in the walls. The architect recommended all exterior walls be replaced. Councilmember Folloder recommends approval of an additional increase of \$200,000 to the renovation budget, bringing the renovation budget to \$5,900,311.50. The VFD can self-fund the increase through the Capital Improvement Fund and the Ambulance Reimbursement Fund. The increase will not require additional funding from the villages.

Motion was made by Councilmember Woodruff and seconded by Councilmember Rouse to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS** – The City Council will discuss and consider possible action on the following:

None

7. **CONSIDERATION FOR REQUESTS FOR COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION** – The City Council will discuss and consider possible action on the following:

- A. Authorization for Councilwoman Rouse and City Administrator to enter into a contract for electrical services for the City of Hedwig Village.

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Woodruff to authorize Councilmember Rouse and the City Administrator to enter into a contract for electrical service for the City. Motion carried 4-0. Councilmember Rouse abstained from the vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS/PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL REPORTS

A. LJA Engineering progress report related to the Hedwig Village Paving and Drainage Project.

Mark Havran, LJA Engineering, Inc. (LJA), stated he has not received many questions, comments, or concerns regarding the proposed paving and drainage project. The video was posted to the City's website. The residents were asked to view the video and direct any comments or questions to Mark Havran. The questions received centered on the width of the streets and sidewalks, timing, and Soldier's Creek. He has responded stating the final decisions, including timing, has not been made.

Mayor Muecke stated the video was done well.

Councilmember Woodruff suggested the City host street by street meetings for the residents to voice their questions and concerns, in addition to holding a public hearing for all residents to attend. The City needs to receive input from all residents prior to finalizing the proposed drainage plans.

Mark Havran agrees that multiple meetings would be a good idea. The City could hold a public hearing for all residents to explain the proposed project and host smaller meetings to explain the final proposed plans.

Councilmember Rouse expressed concern the video was posted to the City's website before the Councilmembers got a chance to review and offer comment on it. She distributed to the City Council her comments on the video. Her comments are as follows:

- A statement should be placed at the beginning of the video informing the residents that the video shows conceptual information, that City Council is seeking input from the residents, the residents should express their questions and concerns, and the design is not final. The residents' questions and concern should be logged by LJA staff and distributed to all members of the City Council.
- She requests a walking tour for residents with LJA staff so the residents can see the roadway width staked in a couple of places on each road. The video should include the dates the tour will be available for residents.
- The video contains a lot of visual content. Adding a table of contents to the beginning of the video would be helpful so residents could move to their street in the video quickly.

- The presentation stated the sidewalks will be eight feet. This is contrary to the City Council's discussion at the last meeting that some sidewalks do not need to be that wide.
- The drainage on Woodsage should be referenced in the presentation.
- The presentation should include a "general idea" of the cost, financing, and timeline.
- The presentation should include an improved level of detail and accuracy.

Councilmember Rouse does not agree that street by street meetings are a good idea. She stated the residents need to hear all the comments from other residents. She suggested City Council form a sub-committee with a minimum of two Councilmembers to work on public engagement to inform the residents of the project. She offered to serve on the sub-committee. The City should be as transparent as possible with the public regarding this project.

Mayor Muecke stated the decision was made to post the video and request resident comments be routed to Mark Havran first, then distributed to City Council.

Councilmember Rouse asked for any actions that will be taken within the next month.

Mayor Muecke stated that Mark Havran will continue to receive feedback from the residents. The City will schedule a series of street-by-street meetings. The meetings will not occur within the next month.

Councilmember Mathews asked if it were possible to hold a town hall meeting, possibly via Zoom, regarding this topic. A town hall meeting would be more efficient than multiple meetings.

Councilmember Folloder asked Mark Havran to comment on a previously stated concern regarding the proposed drainage plan directing water from the west to the east side of the City.

Mark Havran stated the east side of the City already has drainage pipes in place and those pipes are large enough to handle any water flowing from the west.

Councilmember Johnson stated, and Mark Havran confirmed, that water removed from the west side cannot, by law, harm any property downstream.

Councilmember Mathews asked if the proposed plan ties in with hike/bike trails the City previously discussed. The hike/bike trails should be clearly marked for the residents.

Councilmember Folloder stated that funds received from another governmental entity usually includes conditions.

Mayor Muecke stated Harris County Commissioner Ramsey assured the City the conditions are worth the benefits of the financial assistance from the county.

B. Mayor's Final Report

Mayor Muecke gave the following retrospective of the previous six years while he has been in office.

I don't say a lot unless I'm passionate about a particular topic and I don't deliver a monthly update. I saved it all for the end. Starting in 2015, when I first came into office. In 2015, when I ran for office, I laid out five things that I wanted to do. This is a very long thank you to a very large number of people who have helped get everything done.

- First item is schools – establish a cooperative and collaborative relationship with the PTAs and the administrators of Memorial High School, Spring Branch Middle School, and the Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD). We were able to do that. I have some people I need to expressly thank for that. This is in chronological order, Misty Ellis, then President of the Memorial High School PTA. The City had a very contentious issue with the electronic sign at the high school and she was able to muster support from the PTA to help get me elected. Everyone needs to understand, I won the election by eighteen votes. Every vote matters in these elections. I also need to thank Dr. Scott Muri, former Superintendent of SBISD. Dr. Muri and I had lunch shortly after I took office and we talked about when they would have respective incremental bond funds for building new schools, laid out the timeframe, and as a result, we got a high school built during my term and if not for Dr. Muri, that would not have happened. I would like to thank Chief Dareing, SBISD Police Department and three very important people: Travis Sanford, Assistant Superintendent at SBISD, who helped with these construction projects, Jennifer Blaine, former Assistant Superintendent at the time and now current Superintendent of SBISD, who is absolutely wonderful from any aspect and will always have my full support, and Lisa Weir, Principal at Memorial High School. Without those individuals, that high school would not be coming out the ground right now and I think it's a fantastic addition to Hedwig Village. That was my number one.
- Number two – Capital Budget Rebalancing - correcting an equitable share of capital improvements towards our residential areas – new drainage and curbs, new street signs, repainted and maintained crosswalks, and improved traffic controls. Thank you to Lane Standley and Terry Vick simply because they were the ones doing the new street sign install. Thank you to Jeff Cannon, who is our lead engineer with LJA, who got the drainage issue going on its correct path. I'll get more into how that got spearheaded in a minute. Thank you to Harry Folloder for street sign design and execution. Thank you to Kelly Johnson, who has gotten our financial house solidly in order. It was the number one reason why we hired her and she has done an impeccable and outstanding job getting some legacy financial issues resolved so we have adequate reporting. Thank you to Shirley Rouse who developed a very thorough Powerpoint presentation which allowed for the restriping of crosswalks at Memorial High School and the surrounding area to make things safer. Thank

you to Representative Jim Murphy, who in 2015, assisted the City in getting funds from TxDOT to do the treatment to the freeway that makes it much more quiet. That cost the City \$250,000, which we spread out over five years so we didn't feel the pain too much. That was a \$15,000,000 project done in combination with a couple of other Villages but mostly money from TxDOT. So, we were able to spend those dollars and improve the residential areas. Thank you to former Councilmember Bob Wiener and former Councilmember Barry Putterman for voting yes to allow that to happen. They deserve a lot of credit for that.

- Number three – Fiscal Responsibility. Delivering a fiscally responsible rebuilding of the Hedwig Village police station. David Gott and the guys at Durotech got an excellent design and execution of that station. I was not involved in the design phase. We had a few change orders that made the station better. Thank you, Chief Gott. There were various City Councilmembers who voted to increase the HVPD budget to invest in the ancillary equipment we needed to bring us a police department of the first class as we have now. So, thank you to every Councilmember and those that have been before them for those votes. Thank you to Chief Gott again, for having the bravado to recommend increases to the budget and tell us what we needed and for us to deliver him the equipment that he needs, like the simulator, the body cams, the tasers, the cop cars that actually run, etc. etc. etc. And the license plate readers that let us know when the bad guys get here.
- Number four – Commercial Building Height Restrictions. No more height increases. I have some people to thank for helping us achieve the actual great development we've gotten without increasing building heights. Planning and Zoning members over the years – Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Rouse, Barbara Abrams, the current members, Mrs. Hermann, former members Bitsy Searcy and Diana Kopelman, Tom Roth, Pat Murphy. We put in place a mechanism called a Planned Unit Development which was developed by former Councilmember Barry Putterman. I would call Barry Putterman the architect of our Planned Unit Development process because he literally crafted it and it has been fantastic. It has allowed us to get the Stream Development, it has allowed us to get the Moody Development, and allowed us to get that high school, where we're able to give developers what they need, not height, in exchange for the amenities we would like to see. So, thank you to Barry Putterman and those same P&Z members, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Mathews, and Shirley Rouse who worked with those developers to get these three massive projects actually delivered, because there's a lot of work that goes into putting the ordinance in place and you all did a fantastic job. Thank you.
- Final one – Transparency and Access - Streamlining Access and Improving Maintenance to Hedwig Park, Online Access to City Council Minutes, Announcements, and Election Procedures. We created a good website and there are a few people to thank for that. The entire Hedwig Village administrative team – Kelly Johnson, Lisa Modisette, former employees Monica Lopez, Brandy Worthington, and Officer Terry Wu, at the Hedwig Village Police Department. You can now go to the website and read the

minutes. Officer Wu got some interactive things going where you can now sign up for your house watch on the website. So, thank you to him and all you guys for what you did

I took office at the beginning of May 2015 and the Memorial Day Floods happened at the end of May 2015. I went to the then temporary Hedwig Village Police Station and Officer Hernandez started driving me around so we could check conditions. He got me in touch with David Foster at Village Fire. Now it's on my plate so we got to fix this. That rain event started the conversation about the Westside Drainage Project. Fast forward a year to April 15, 2016 - Tax Day Floods. Massive public outpouring in this chamber again – fix my problem. This Council, to their credit, it was then Mr. McGinnis, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Wiener, and Mr. Putterman, in one meeting approved \$250,000 to examine the problem and see if we can get it fixed. That moment was seminal in changing the west side drainage issue. And we're still working on it today.

In July 2017, Chief Gott reported to me that Mrs. Janeil Bernard had been murdered in her home in Hedwig Village. Chief Gott, along with Detective Sergeant Marvin Collins, Detective Terry Wu, and Detective Phil Waters of the Houston Police Department, in eleven days, had the suspect arrested, and they got a confession out of the guy. They put that guy away for fifty years. Thank you for that. So, that was resolved in July of 2017.

Then in August of 2017, there was a solar eclipse that everyone was kind of dazzled by and paying attention to. Two and a half days later, Hurricane Harvey came on incredibly quickly. We had notice from the Village Fire Department, who was on it days before the eclipse, but it happened so rapidly, we got trapped. Some of our personnel were not able to get here because all the bridges and everything were closed down. So, I need to thank a lot of people for the way they helped us get through Hurricane Harvey safely. Number one, and most important, is Sergeant Darryl Kessner, may he rest in peace, who was the ranking officer in the Villages at the time when the waters came up. Kessner spent ten days sleeping in his office at the Hedwig Village Police Department as the commander on scene. He served the City extraordinarily well in a moment of need far above his training and pay grade. He should be remembered for that. Obviously, Chief Gott, Captain Warner, Chief David Foster, and every firefighter at VFD who worked harder than I've ever seen them work, specifically Assistant Chief Howard Miller for running the Emergency Operations Center and coordinating the efforts of all six Villages. Congressman John Culberson, who reached out to provide us with equipment through the Texas Department of Public Safety to secure our bridges. Mayor Tom Ramsey, of Spring Valley, former County Judge Ed Emmot, Mayor Jimmy Pappas, of Hunters Creek, Mayor Jay Williams, former Mayor of Bunker Hill, who worked extraordinarily hard to coordinate the public safety response, and every single police officer in the Villages, whether it was HVPD, MVPD, Spring Valley, or SBISD. I had to declare a disaster, we issued a curfew, we're going out checking the bridges because the water was now receding and the concern was people would try to traverse and be unsafe. I got to the Buffalo Bayou bridge on Voss and standing watch, at four o'clock in the morning, was Chief Dareing, of the Spring Branch ISD Police Department. Thank you to everybody who helped with that. I got a call two days before the storm from Matt Woodruff. He stated he is a member

of an organization called Texas Search and Rescue and they can mobilize assets to come to the Villages in case we need high water rescue. I didn't think we were going to need that and I didn't want to pull resources from somebody that may need it. Matt stated they were available and to send in a formal request. So, Matt and his team of seven people camped out here at City Hall with one swift water rescue boat. They rescued about a hundred people from, primarily, the area of Gessner at the bayou. Seeing what he and his team could do, putting themselves in harms way, for the betterment, not just for the Villages, but for the people in the situation was absolutely incredible.

During Hurricane Harvey, Village Fire Department had a leak in the roof. We've known that facility has been in disrepair for decades but that is a very difficult political situation because it is governed by a Board of Commission with Commissioners from each village. We were able to reach consensus about what we were going to do about the fire station. It was a process I was highly involved in but there were other people that helped. City of Piney Point Village Councilmember Henry Kollenberg, Hilshire Village Commissioner Robert Burns, and Allen Carpenter, from Spring Valley, for helping to build consensus. I would like to specifically thank former Councilmember and then Fire Commissioner Bill Johnson for his incredible work to cajole, convince, strong-arm, and lead, as Chairman, the effort to build a coalition. Pam Pursey for putting immense pressure on her City (Bunker Hill Village) to come back under the VFD Interlocal Agreement. Then Chairman Zeb Nash from the City of Piney Point for supporting the effort to bring the Villages together. Barry Putterman, who was then Alternate Commissioner to the Fire Commission who graciously stepped out of his role so I could enter it and have influence at the Fire Commission. Thank you, Barry, for that selfless act. And then Harry Folloder, who stepped into that role, and has acquitted himself as maybe the best Fire Commissioner the Commission has ever seen. He has been very involved in the reconstruction of the fire department. Thank you, Harry.

I need to say thank you to Dane Johnson, to Matt Woodruff, to Barry Putterman, to Chief David Foster, Kevin Taylor and you all, for the outstanding legal, operational, and evidentiary production work of the Memorial Inn and Suites that allowed that hazardous building to be condemned by the City and bulldozed to the ground. Thank you for that.

A lot of time was spent getting the SBISD building out of the ground. Thanks for that again goes to Dr. Muri, Jennifer Blaine, President Pam Goodson of the SBISD Board of Trustees, Travis Sanford, all the various sub-committees that many of you and I served on, Spring Branch ISD that got that capital allocated, Principle Lisa Weir of Memorial High School, the taxpayers of SBISD who spent \$1 billion on a bond of which we got almost 15% allocated for Memorial High School. Thank you all for that.

By February, I'm thinking of retiring and COVID is starting to build steam. We had a City Council Meeting on March 12th and on March 14th the world stops. Harris County Judge Lena Hildago goes on TV on the 16th and starts closing restaurants. I had a conference call with the Judge offering her a very strong opinion on her actions at that time. The Trump Administration extended their fifteen days to slow the spread, the Governor shuts us down. I was getting feedback from our retailers that their numbers were collapsing by the day which jeopardizes our budget because we rely very heavily on sales tax. When sales tax starts taking a nosedive, the budget is directly affected.

We moved quickly to put in place financing to give us a liquidity bridge through COVID. I need to thank all these Councilmembers for coming full force behind us to make sure that happened. Schools closed, then had difficulty reopening. I decided I couldn't quit in the middle of all this because when you put the word Mayor in front of your name, people actually pick up the phone. We were successful in getting the schools back open. I texted Lena Hildago every other day to tell her I'm not abundantly clear why we're on Code Red, I worked with Austin, I worked with other Villages to do everything we could to get things back to normal as quickly as possible. Specifically, with respect to actions that took place, I want to thank two groups of people. Matt Brice, at Federal Grill, asked for assistance to help get Federal Grill back open. Tom Ramsey, Mayor of Spring Valley at the time, said Federal Grill is in Hedwig Village and not beholden to the City of Houston Health Department, the City of Houston Police Department, the City of Houston Fire Department, etc., etc., etc. Hedwig Village completely controlled what he could do. Matt Brice was brave enough to open his restaurant in the face of immense political pressure from many people, including the Governor of the State of Texas. The Houston Chronicle wrote a front page article, which included a picture of Matt Brice and Chief Gott, regarding the reopening of Federal Grill. And I'd like to thank Matt for having the courage to go on CNN, the NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, all these different media outlets, to be able to bring that message to people. It was fascinating to watch. I would also like to thank a group called Parents for In-Person Education, who applied incredible pressure in Austin, in Harris County, and the Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees to ensure that Spring Branch ISD, although not leading the charge, was a fast follower to make sure that our schools reopened for in-person education shortly after a very brief delay. If it had not been for the work y'all did, I'm not convinced that our first semester would have been normal. So, thank you to all y'all for all that you did.

I have just spent half an hour summarizing six years and I want to say thank you to everybody that allowed me to have this experience. It has been one of the most satisfying things I've ever done in my life. I would go back and do it again. So, thank you to everyone and thank you to all the current and former Councilmembers that supported me.

9. CLOSED SESSION – The City Council will retire into Closed Session as authorized by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, to discuss the following matters:

- A. As authorized by Section 551.072, to consult with the City Attorney, regarding approval of easement.

The closed session was not held.

10. ACTION – CLOSED SESSION - The City Council will discuss and consider any action necessary on items discussed in Closed Session.

- A. Consideration and possible action to accept an easement agreement with LevCal Hedwig Village LP.

Mayor Muecke and Councilmembers agreed to discuss this agenda item without entering into Executive Session.

Evan DuVall, Assistant Building Official, stated the easement is for the new traffic light located at the student drive on Gaylord Drive by the high school. The easement dimensions are five foot by ten foot. LevCal agreed to the traffic light before the easement was accepted and recorded by the City. The easement allows for the operation and maintenance of the traffic light.

Motion was made by Councilmember Folloder and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to accept the easement as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alan Petrov, City Attorney, stated the easement is a perpetual, non-exclusive easement and gives the City the right to use the land for the purposes the City intends. The property owner can also use the land for their purposes as long as the City's purpose is not interfered with.

Councilmember Rouse asked if the traffic light location is also a co-location for a small node.

Evan DuVall stated no. The traffic light location includes the pole (above ground) and equipment (below ground) only. There is not a small node box at the location.

11. AGENDA REQUESTS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

None

12. ADJOURN


Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Rouse to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approved and accepted on June 17, 2021.



Tom Jinks, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lisa Modisette, Asst. City Secretary