



Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 6:30 PM
8301 Westview Drive, Houston, Texas 77055

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buesinger called to order the Regular Council Meeting at 6:31 P.M.

1.A. Council Member Cooper gave the **invocation**.

1.B. **Pledge of Allegiance**

1.C. **PRESENT**

Mayor Bob Buesinger
Mayor Pro Tem Andy Carey
Council Member Mark Huber
Council Member Kristi Cooper

ABSENT

Council Member Mike Gordy
Council Member Justin Crawford

Also present: City Attorney Bounds, Olson & Olson, Engineer Him, HDR Engineering, Spring Valley Police Chief Schulze, Captain Lane and Sergeant Menchaca, Secretary Stephens and Clerk Ray

2. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None

3. REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL

3.A. **Police Report:** For the month of September there were 1,014 calls for service including 872 business checks, 2 parking violations, and 36 public relations. The Flock License Plate Reader Cameras recorded 41,000 plate reads and there were five hits on a vehicle involved in possible harassment.

Captain Lane reported that new lanes will be striped on Bingle to include a bike lane. This construction will likely cause congestion on Wirt Road and Blalock.

3.B. **Building Official Report:** Secretary Stephens said that there were no outstanding issues to discuss in the building report. She said there were 23 permits issued last month and 45 inspections were conducted. The council did not have questions.

3.C. **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Him said that the cooler temperatures were having a positive effect on the water pressure.
Engineer Him had a virtual meeting with Inframark to discuss the monitoring plan prepared in 2022. He provided Inframark with comments and amendments for

compliance with TCEQ. Also discussed was the frequency of chemical residual testing which may need to shift to a seasonal schedule. Engineer Him requested additional pricing breakdowns from Inframark's testing, as he feels that the 260% increase is too high.

After reviewing the quote to repair the Pine Chase Grove Backflow Preventer, Engineer Him recommended that the Council approve to replace the equipment under Agenda Item 5.A. The Pine Chase Grove survey is under geotechnical review and is expected to be ready this month.

Engineer Him said that he is expecting an executed copy of the Wirt Road Sidewalk Interlocal Agreement from the City of Houston. He said that he is coordinating with Jose Laguna on the design review.

- 3.D. **Fire Commissioner's Report:** Chief Miller said that there are four openings at the station and they have narrowed down the candidates to three applicants. He said that on September 29th the ladder truck was involved in a minor accident while responding to a fire in Houston and suffered a bent bumper. On October 2nd there was a house fire in Spring Valley Village. The sprinkler system activated and isolated the flames in the garage. Chief Miller said the next commission meeting is on October 25th.

Mayor Buesinger said that the search for a Fire Chief is ongoing. He also said that he attended the Village Fire Department Family Day where service awards were proudly presented.

Council Member Cooper asked if there were any updates on the search for a Fire Chief. Mayor Buesinger said that the hiring process was in the works along with the special audit which the auditors were collecting hundreds of pages of documents and scanning them for review. He said that there should be updates on both at the fire commissioner's meeting this month.

- 3.E. **Mayor Buesinger's Report:** Mayor Buesinger said that he attended the Spring Valley Police Coffee with Cops event, and was pleased to see multiple Hilshire Village residents there to support the Police Department.

Mayor Buesinger asked if the canceled National Night Out event was going to be rescheduled, Secretary Stephens said she hadn't heard back from the Civic Club and it seemed that they were moving forward with the Halloween Event.

Council Member Cooper asked if the Halloween event was in a different location this year, Secretary Stephens had not been notified about a different location, and the event was scheduled to take place on Archley Drive.

- 3.F. **City Secretary's Report:** Secretary Stephens said there had been an increase in water complaints in previous months along with electrical outage complaints on Archley Drive. She said she is unsure what the issue is but the area experiences isolated and frequent outages. An outage history report was requested from CenterPoint.

Secretary Stephens reminded the Council that the Memorial Villages Recycling Day

is scheduled for October 28th. She provided an update from CenterPoint regarding the Street Light LED Conversion, hopefully, to be completed toward the end of the year, but there is a chance that CenterPoint's budgetary issues might push the project to next year.

- 3.G. **City Treasurer's Report:** Secretary Stephens said that she had received the utility reports for the end of Fiscal Year 2023. Council Member Huber asked what were the options for the surplus amount other than putting it into a savings account. Attorney Bounds said surplus and actuals would need to be discussed and amended, City Secretary Stephens said she would look at how surpluses have been treated in the previous years.

Secretary Stephens met with Spring Valley Public Works directors and City Administrator John McDonald about sharing and servicing water supply in the future. Currently, Spring Valley does not have the capacity to take on Hilshire Village but they are open to discussing future options. They are willing to revisit an interlocal agreement for traffic sign replacement and smaller operational work.

Mayor Buesinger asked about the Village Insurance rates. City Secretary Stephens said she was anticipating continuance for medical coverage with Blue Cross Blue Shield due to a decrease in overall cost.

Secretary Stephens is consulting with other Villages for a request for proposals from banks for depository services.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion made by Council Member Huber, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carey

4.A Approve disbursements

4.B Approve check registers

4.C Approve minutes from the Public Hearing on September 12, 2023

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Carey, Council Member Huber, Council Member Cooper

The motion carried 3-0.

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- 5.A. **Discussion and Possible action to approve the replacement of the backflow preventer at Pine Chase Grove for \$9,450.**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Carey, Seconded Council Member Huber

Engineer Him said that this is the smaller, six-inch, backflow preventer.

Voting Yea: Council Member Crawford, Mayor Pro Tem Carey, Council Member Huber, Council Member Cooper

The motion carried 3-0.

5.C. Discussion and Possible Action to approve an amended contract with Inframark, LLC.

Motion made by Council Member Cooper, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carey.

Clay Brandenburg, Inframark Senior Account Manager, said that the current pricing is approaching ten years old. He said that the proposed pricing brings them out of a deficit for our service area, although not providing more than approximately 15% profit to Inframark. He stated that although he was not able to negotiate on the base costs, he would agree to reducing the subcontractor service markup from 20% to 15%.

The motion was amended to approve the amended contract with Inframark, LLC with the change of subcontractor pricing to be reduced from 20% to 15%.

Voting Yea on the amended motion: Mayor Pro Tem Carey, Council Member Huber, Council Member Cooper

The motion carried 3-0.

5.D. Discussion and Possible action to approve of the City of Hilshire Village Ordinance #833-2023 amending Chapter 7, Offenses and Nuisances, of the Code of Ordinances to provide for public tree care and regulating tree preservation.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Carey, Seconded Council Member Huber

The motion was amended to approve the City of Hilshire Village Ordinance #833-2023 amending Chapter 7, Offenses and Nuisances, of the Code of Ordinances to provide for public tree care and regulating tree preservation “as shown by attached exhibit”.

Voting Yea to the amended motion: Mayor Pro Tem Carey, Council Member Huber, Council Member Cooper

The motion carried 3-0.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS None

7. ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS None

8. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS The Council expressed concerns over the south Ridgeley curve. Both sides of the street are dangerous for street parking although only the inside of the curve is currently a No Parking Zone.

Attorney Bounds said that the City will automatically be included in the PFAS Class Action Lawsuit unless opting out by December 4th.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Council Member Cooper, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carey

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Carey, Council Member Huber, Council Member Cooper

The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

ATTEST:

Robert F. Buesinger, Mayor

Cassie Stephens, City Secretary