

## Citizen Comments 11.15.2023

Mayor, Council members,

Today, we celebrate an annual tradition of confirming the election of three candidates who have just taken the oath of office to serve our community for another two years. The city of Rollingwood elects a mayor and two council members every even number year and three council members every odd number year. In the absence of an contested election this year, the three incumbent council members continue to serve our community. CONGRATULATIONS to Brook Brown, Phil McDuffee and Alec Robinson. THANK YOU for your past service to our city and for continuing to serve us for another two years.

Some of you have expressed a desire to know more about Rollingwood and its early days. I thought I would share a few highlights of the very first election in August 1955, the year Rollingwood became incorporated as The Village of Rollingwood and at an election in October 1955 when the citizens elected a mayor, 5 aldermen and a sheriff the appropriate number of candidates for the positions needed to operate the newly Incorporated Village of Rollingwood.

Thanks to the generosity of Frank Scofield, son of Frank L. Scofield the very first mayor of Rollingwood, I have a copy of the document(s) that describe the process used to conduct an election.

1. **On July 22, 1955** George B. Hatley and 20 other “persons” filed a petition accompanied by a copy of the plat showing the corporate limits of the proposed village with the Travis County Judge
2. **On August 8, 1955.** an election was held **at 3105 Rogers Avenue (does not exist anymore) “to determine whether or not the qualified voters residing within the proposed corporate limits of the Village of Rollingwood desire to incorporate said Village of Rollingwood into a body corporate for municipal purposes under the provisions of Chapter 11, Title 28, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas 1925.**
3. The judge signs a copy of the results certifying that **“at said election there were 47 votes cast of which number there were cast for “Corporation : 44 and No Corporation : 3”**. The document is signed by the Presiding Officer

and two judges. The geographical boundary is described by metes and bounds and is part of the Deed Records of Travis County.

4. So, who voted in this election? **“Every person who has attained the age of 21 years and who has resided within the limits of the proposed village of Rollingwood for 6 months preceding, is a qualified elector under the laws of the State of Texas and shall be entitled to vote at the election.”**
5. **The sheriff of the County shall give notice of the election by posting a notice at 3 public places in the village of Rollingwood 10 days prior to the date of the said election.**
6. **On October 1, 1955 an election was held for the purpose of filling municipal offices of the Village of Rollingwood, Travis County, Texas pursuant to the election held to incorporate held on August 8, 1955. This was an uncontested election with just the appropriate number of candidates for the positions needed to operate as the Incorporated Village of Rollingwood.**

**Frank L. Scofield was elected mayor together with 5 aldermen and one Sheriff. This was the very FIRST election held to elect the very first Mayor and Aldermen for the Village of Rollingwood in 1955. This is the story of our humble beginnings. That was 68 years ago!**

**-Shanthi Jayakumar**