

The Regular City Council Meeting of September 25, 2018 was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

MAYOR

Phillip Howard

OTHERS

Shannan Kinsley

Jay Shipley

Chief David Bejar

Madeline McCloskey

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Susan Darst

Don Reddout

Ron Green

Jennifer Nottingham – Absent

Gigi Duke

Emory Bluhm

Geri Poss

Pat Warr

Lynn Tiner

Murry Hughey

Kimberly Verity

Kelly Dawley

Jeff English

Mayor Howard declared a quorum with Council members Darst, Poss, Tiner and Verity present. He stated Council member Nottingham is absent this evening. The meeting was started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 4, 2018 Special City Council Meeting were reviewed. Council member Tiner stated on page 1, under Agenda Item No. 1, go 18 lines down, the record should reflect “firm”. It should be singular not plural. The motion to accept the April 4, 2018 minutes as amended was made by Council member Darst, seconded by Council member Tiner and passed with 3 YES and 1 ABSTAINING by Council member Verity as she wasn’t at that meeting.

The minutes of the April 24, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting were reviewed. The motion to approve the April 24, 2018 minutes as presented was made by Council member Darst, seconded by Council member Tiner and passed with 3 YES and 1 ABSTAINING by Council member Verity as she wasn’t at that meeting.

Mayor Howard stated the May 22, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes are not finalized for Council’s approval.

PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS AND VISITORS

Emory Bluhm provided Council a handout and introduced himself as the Chair of the Scenic Loop-Helotes Creek Alliance. He stated the objectives of the Alliance are to: 1) maintain the status of the Scenic Loop-Helotes Creek Corridor from Hwy 16 (Bandera Rd) to Babcock Rd as a rural road 2) keep the tree canopy intact and protected from the spread of Oak Wilt 3) protect the visual, physical and aesthetic qualities of the corridor 4) support protection of the region’s historical and cultural integrity 5) support protection of the region’s natural beauty and resources to include water, viewshed and dark sky. He stated a few current initiatives include: 1) the Alliance has registered the neighborhood with the City of San Antonio 2) the Alliance is working towards a goal of establishing a “Neighborhood Conservation District” and a “Preservation Parkway Corridor Overlay” 3) the Alliance is more than willing to collaborate with the City of Grey Forest on mutually beneficial efforts. Emory Bluhm stated the objectives of the Alliance should in no way impede any planning or development adjacent to the corridor so long as it does not significantly diminish the aesthetic, environmental and cultural nature of our historic neighborhood.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS/FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Howard stated the August 2018 Monthly Financials have been provided. We’re approaching the end of the Fiscal Year in good shape at almost 102% for income. Expenditures are currently at 85% overall. There’s a big increase in legal expenses due to litigation. Mayor Howard introduced the new Director of Public Works, Jay Shipley. He stated Jay comes to us from Helotes Public Works and begins October 1st. Mayor Howard stated he will be putting out a newsletter the first week of October and will introduce Jay. Mayor Howard stated the October City Council Meeting will be abbreviated as we will begin reorganizing and doing a technology upgrade at City Hall. Furniture/computers are being moved and the office will be in a state of chaos. Mayor Howard stated Council member Verity attended a Small Cell Tower Meeting held by CPS Energy on September 14, 2018. The topic was on Senate Bill 1004 addressing Small Cell Towers which was passed this last legislative session and became effective September 1, 2018. It will force us to develop a new ordinance specifically addressing small cell tower installations in the rights-of-way.

COUNCIL/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS – None.

GREY FOREST COMMUNITY BOARD (GFCB) UPDATE

Madeline McCloskey stated the Grey Forest Community Center remodel is finally finished. They are working on outlining commercial use of the facility. They've had good guidance from the City Attorney on when you can use it for a fundraiser and when can't you. They will present it to Council when they have the answers.

SENATOR FRANK L. MADLA, JR. NATURAL AREA UPDATE

Ron Green stated the Madla Park is in good shape. They have a new Board member. The Madla Conservancy plans to have additional fundraisers going forward. They will have the annual fundraiser in March/April and look to have an additional fundraiser next year for a new roof for the cottage. The next Board Meeting is this coming Sunday. They have regular workdays on the third Saturday of each month.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT UPDATE - None.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief Bejar reviewed the August 2018 Monthly Activity Report. There were 102 calls for service, 991 hours worked, 5730 total miles driven, 158 traffic stops, 149 summons issued with 10 being no through trucks, 31 warnings issued and 73 crime preventions. There was 1 arrest for a felony warrant on a traffic stop and 2 arrest assisting Helotes.

PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Howard stated Public Works is working on repairing pot holes, mowing, smoothing parking areas and cleaning up creek debris with the assistance of GFU lending us a hand.

GFU UTILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff English stated GFU is having a good year. They have a lot of construction going on. The wells are in good condition. They helped the City with flood cleanup. Jeff English stated the Grey Forest Water System received the Outstanding Public Drinking Water System Award for 2018 from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. They had no violations. Only 1 % rank as an outstanding system and it's the highest award you can receive. Jeff English thanked Kelly Dawley and her group for all their hard work.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Don Reddout stated there were 8 calls for service in the City for the month of August 2018; 2 Assist EMS, 5 other than medical and 1 no response. The Average Response Time was 2.14 and Average Number of Personnel 2.75.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSS AND ACT ON RECOMMENDATION BY GREY FOREST UTILITIES (GFU) BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF POST 3 ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeff English stated he recommends the reappointment of Mr. Harry Drought to the position of Post 3 of the GFU Board of Trustees. Harry has been on the Board for 35 years, is very active, thoughtful and a conservative member of the Board of Trustees. Jeff English stated Harry Drought would like to serve another term on the Board. The Board of Trustees unanimously recommend the reappointment of Harry Drought for another term. The motion to reappoint Harry Drought to the GFU Board of Trustees, Position No. 3 was made by Council member Verity, seconded by Council member Tiner and passed unanimously.

2. DISCUSS AND ACT ON ORDINANCE NO. 225 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF GREY FOREST AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF GREY FOREST FOR THE 2018/2019 FISCAL YEAR

Mayor Howard stated the budget has been reviewed and approved. Council member Tiner made the motion to act on approval of Ordinance No. 225 making appropriations for the support of the City of Grey Forest and adopting the Annual Budget of the City of Grey Forest for the 2018/2019 Fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Council member Poss and passed unanimously.

3. DISCUSS AND ACT ON: "RATIFICATION OF THE VOTE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET THAT WILL RAISE TOTAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE"

Mayor Howard stated Council did not raise the property tax rate. The property values in the area have gone up, therefore we have collected more tax revenue. Council member Poss made the motion to act on ratification of the vote to adopt the budget that will raise total property tax revenue. The motion was seconded by Council member Darst and passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSS AND ACT ON: "AMENDED BUDGET COVER PAGE TO RECORD VOTE OF EACH MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY BY NAME VOTING ON THE ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET"

Mayor Howard reviewed the Amended Budget Cover Page which records the vote of each member of the Governing Body by name voting on the adoption of the budget. Council member Verity made the motion to act on and approve the Amended Budget Cover Page to record vote of each member of the governing body by name voting on the adoption of the budget. The motion was seconded by Council member Poss and passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSS AND ACT ON: "MOTION THAT THE PROPERTY TAX RATE BE INCREASED BY THE ADOPTION OF A TAX RATE OF \$0.088441 PER \$100 OF VALUE, WHICH IS EFFECTIVELY A 7.973% INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE"

Mayor Howard asked for a motion. Council member Verity made the motion that the Property Tax Rate be increased by the adoption of a Tax Rate of \$0.088441 per \$100 of value, which is effectively a 7.973% increase in the Tax Rate. The motion was seconded by Council member Tiner and passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSS AND ACT ON ORDINANCE NO. 226 LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE 2018/2019 FISCAL YEAR BY THE ADOPTION OF A TAX RATE OF \$0.088441/\$100

Mayor Howard asked for a motion. Council member Tiner made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 226 Levying Ad Valorem Taxes for use and support of the Municipal Government for the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year by the adoption of a Tax Rate of \$0.088441/\$100. The motion was seconded by Council member Darst and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

There was no further business. Mayor Howard adjourned the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:14 p.m.

These minutes were written/recorded by Shawna Kinsley.

These minutes were approved as written/amended on the 22nd day of January, 2019.

Signed:


Phillip A. Howard, Mayor