



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY MARCH 9, 2021
MINUTES**

A meeting of the City Council ("Council") of the Village of The Hills ("the Village") was held remotely. Mayor Wharton called the meeting to order and the roll was called of the duly constituted officers and members of the Council to wit:

Greg Wharton, Mayor
Hilda Potsavich, Mayor Pro Tem
Robert Smith, Councilmember, Secretary

Jim Nelson, Councilmember, Treasurer
Rodney Thompson, Councilmember
Zac Carroll, Councilmember

and all said persons were present thus constituting a quorum.

Also present were Wendy Smith and Linda Lunney, Village of The Hills; Earl Wood, MUD; Tom Stiles, POA; residents Sarah Carroll, Laura Sexton and Amy Wharton.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting

2. Finance/Treasurer's Report for February 2021.

Councilmember Nelson reviewed his February revenue comments. Property tax collections are at 96.2% of the budget. An overage of budgeted revenues continues in both general sales and mixed beverages tax remittances. Franchise fees are on plan for the year to date.

Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich moved approval of the Consent Agenda; Councilmember Carroll seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Law Enforcement

The written report was reviewed showing: 1 Citation, 22 Warnings; of which 6 were residents; 16 visitors.

2. POA Liaison

Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich reviewed her written report:

- The Manager has been doing weekly inspections of the community, looking for POA/AC violations. She is also working with the POA attorney regarding collections.
- The POA and the City are working together with Sunscapes to pick up tree limbs that were damaged by the storm as well as trying to assist residents with other storm issues.
- There is discussion on raising the non-resident fines for security issues from \$50 up to \$250.
- The cedar trees along Hills Drive ("dead man's curve") interfere with larger trucks and are scheduled for trimming as soon as possible.
- An independent engineering firm will perform a test on the road seal product that was applied to the surface during the last project. They will also determine if drainage contributes to road/surface problems.

3. MUD Liaison

Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich and Earl Wood reviewed her written report:

- The current supplier of the pond liner has increased their prices and Mr. Wood will investigate prices and alternative suppliers.
- The MUD is having their engineer to assess the cost of an Effluent Interconnect with Lakeway MUD which would enable HCMUD to send effluent water to Lakeway ponds in the event MUD ponds are full or need to be drained.
- Earl Wood described the collaborative efforts of the MUD, POA and Village during the recent winter storm. The MUD staff were on site 24/7 throughout the week helping residents with water emergencies along with many residents helping residents during this event.
- At the request of the POA, the MUD is amending the Master Drainage plan to offer more options in side drainage ditches.

4. Park Liaison

Councilmember Smith reported that Hayden Alvey resigned as chairman and Sarah Carroll is the interim chair. Once the Commission is back to the recommended membership of 7 to 9 commissioners; a new vote will be taken for officers. The Commission needs 4 to 5 new members. Future events were discussed such as Movies in the Park, and Hillsfest. On April 12 there will be a walk-thru of the park to determine any maintenance issues and create a wish list of improvements and/or additions to the park. A community garden was also discussed.

5. City Manager's Report

Most items are covered under Business. Wendy Smith reported that the Youth Advisory Commission has planned an Easter event for children under 7 on April 3rd. There will be a bubble machine and candy will be given out. Attendees are asked to donate toiletries for the needy. Ms. Smith also expressed the need for new YAC members.

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Wharton's items are covered under Business. He is still trying to arrange a meeting with the Lakeway Mayor to discuss local issues.

7. Response and Recovery Report for February Winter Storms

Wendy Smith reported damaged trees on 35 acres of greenbelts required clean up. In the Park, the drinking fountain, lift station and plumbing in the restrooms all need repair. She commented on multi agencies, staff, officials as well as many residents coming together to help during and after the storm. Future discussion should include transportation and housing for staff during emergencies. Ms. Smith and Earl Wood will prepare a report of expenditures for possible reimbursement. Ms. Smith is looking at a new water fountain to replace the old one which has not withstood winter weather well.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action on Disaster Declarations, Travis County Orders, and the Governor's Executive Orders

The City will continue in alignment with the Governor's Executive orders for the next 30 days.

Councilmember Smith moved to continue alignment with the Governor's Executive orders; Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. Recognize and honor Winter Storm Good Samaritans

Mayor Wharton stated residents both asking for help and helping were in abundance during the storm. He asked Councilmembers Carroll, Potsavich and Smith to form an informal committee to collect names of people to be recognized as Good Samaritans in either an event or some other kind of physical recognition.

3. Discussion and possible action to schedule a multi-agency After Action Review of the February Winter Storm

The Mayor will be meeting with all agencies to prepare for future events. A community skills registry was suggested as well as finding solutions to communicating if cell phones go down and holding exercises.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding community engagement initiatives.

Wendy Smith reported on the new TheHillstx.gov domain to replace the current .org. She asked that the councilmembers bring their calendars to the next meeting to plan the quarterly meetings.

5. Discussion and possible action relating to Parks & Recreation Commission membership and annual projects

Mayor Wharton discussed the need to fill vacant or upcoming vacancies on the Commission. The request for Commissioners will be publicized and once the required number of commissioners has been met a new election for officers will be held. He suggested the following priorities: researching the feasibility of a garden and designing it; planning a park fest by the fall or sooner; and an infrastructure list of desired improvements that can be referred to.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding wildlife management in The Hills

Councilmember Nelson requested this item. Before the snow coyotes and skunks were more visible, but since the winter storm and subsequent cleaning up of the common areas, it presently seems to no

longer be an issue. Councilmember Nelson stated that management of wildlife should be publicized along with monitoring of conditions. In an emergency, such as a suffering deer, or any kind of attack, law enforcement should be called. Dead animals are picked up from common areas by the MUD during normal working hours.

7. Discussion and possible action on Lohman's Crossing Gate traffic management

The caution sign for right-of-way and u-turns is up at the out-going side of the gate. Other improvements are being evaluated.

8. Ratify emergency authorization for the City Manager to approve an emergency service purchase with Lakeway Tree Experts agreement not to exceed \$20,000 for Damaged Tree Services and Debris Removal

Expenses will come out of Solid Waste Management to cover disaster clean up.

9. Ratify emergency authorization for the City Manager to approve a cost-share agreement with the Hills POA for vegetative debris removal and chipping

Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich moved to ratify emergency authorization for the City Manager to purchase Lakeway Tree Experts services and to approve a cost-share agreement with the Hills POA for vegetative debris removal and chipping, not to exceed \$30,000; Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action on Walking Trail VTH.003 Update

Review of the final plans have been delayed by the winter storm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS

- New business items to be included on the next agenda

There were no items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council went into Executive Session at 7:30 PM

The Mayor and City Council may adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matters listed on the agenda, as authorized by the Texas Government Code including, but not limited to, Sections §441.071 (Consultation with attorney), §551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), §551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), §551.074 (Personnel Matters), §551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), §551.087 (Economic Development), §418.183 (Deliberations about Homeland Security Issues), and as authorized by the Texas Tax Code including, but not limited to Section 321.3022 (Sales Tax Information).

- Consultation with City attorney relating to capital project financing
- Sales Tax Information

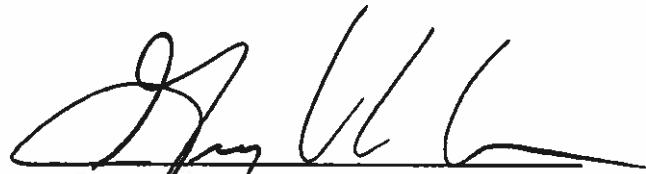
The Council came out of Executive Session at 8:15 pm

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Signed this 13th day of April 2021.

(Seal)



Greg Wharton, Mayor



Linda Lunney, City Secretary