



CITY OF HILL COUNTRY VILLAGE
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**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
116 ASPEN LANE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78232
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014
5:00 P.M.**

The City Council for the City of Hill Country Village met for a Regular Council Meeting Thursday, November 20th, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 116 Aspen Lane, Hill Country Village, Texas. This was an open meeting subject to the open meetings law of the State of Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Gabriel Durand-Hollis
Councilman Carl A. Register
Councilwoman Elizabeth Worley
Councilwoman Jane Cronk
Councilman James Allen

Members Absent:

Councilman George "Rick" Evans

City Staff Present:

Frank Morales, City Administrator and Police Chief
Elizabeth Gomez, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to order.

Mayor Durand-Hollis called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Durand-Hollis led those present in a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Discussion/action approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 25, 2014.

4. Discussion/action approving the minutes of the City Council Workshop of October 13, 2014.

5. Discussion/action approving an ordinance appointing Diana Y. Salinas as a Relief Police Officer.

Councilwoman Cronk moved to approve items 3, 4 and 5 of the consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Worley. Motion passed unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Discussion/action accepting the Delinquent Tax Collection report for the period of October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014 from Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, LLP.

Ms. Carri Wells, from Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, addressed the city council. Ms. Wells related the report on page three gives a great snapshot of how effective the program is in terms of when taxes go delinquent on July 1st. The city has a history ranging from 94% to 96.5% which was the highest back in 2011 and the firm has brought the percentage over 99% which is just base tax. Page four gives the status of accounts where things are on a given day. The largest percentage of delinquent accounts is tied up with over 65 years of age accounts. Anyone who is over 65 or with a disability can seek a deferral that they can put off paying their taxes until the property status changes such as passing away or heirs taking over property. The city will earn 8% interest on the unpaid balance with no collection fee to the firm, but they will still monitor the account. One of the things Albert Uresti, Bexar County Tax Assessor was committed to when coming in to office was helping seniors on a fixed income because he saw them struggling to make quarterly payments. They helped set up a formula with Mr. Uresti to have seniors pay on a monthly plan, the first in the state. They were able to see some of the deferrals lessen due to partaking in the monthly payment option. The rest of the report reflects the collection activity that they get.

Councilwoman Worley asked if the penalty and interest is how the firm gets paid.

Ms. Wells answered that the city gets the penalty and interest and their fee is 20% that is separate.

Councilman Register made a motion to accept the Delinquent Tax Collection, seconded by Councilwoman Worley. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Wells lastly mentioned that they also offer to communities throughout Bexar County and many other municipalities the ability to collect court fees and fines and also allows a provision to defer the cost of collections if the city is interested.

7. Citizens to be heard.

At this time, citizens who have filled out a registration form prior to the start of the meeting may speak on any topic they wish to bring to the attention of the governing body so long as that topic is not on the agenda for this meeting. Citizens may speak on specific

agenda items when that item is called for discussion. During the Citizens to be Heard section no council action may take place and no council discussion or response is required to the speaker. A time limit of two minutes per speaker is permitted; the council may extend this time at their discretion.

No one signed up to speak.

8. Discussion/action approving a resolution authorizing a refund of \$1.83 of penalty and \$0.30 of interest to Folbre & Associates, Inc.

Mr. Morales stated the Tax Assessor called and said that Folbre & Associates disputed their charges and late fees. The appraisal district realized they made a mistake and didn't send the bill on time. The appraisal district now needs the city's approval in order to send a refund.

Councilman Register moved to approve the resolution authorizing a refund of \$1.83 of penalty and \$0.30 of interest to Folbre & Associates, seconded by Councilwoman Cronk. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion/action appointing a new member to the Zoning Commission.

Mr. Morales stated that there is a vacancy due to the stepping down of Mr. Steve Marceau. He emailed about one hundred residents and the Homeowners Association did as well and the only person that responded was Mr. Doug Boom. He does sit on a couple of boards as well as Mr. Jeff Garvens who was recommended by Mr. Kirk Francis. Mr. Garvens has not responded back from a phone call and email sent.

Councilman Register asked if Mr. Brett Rowe was on the email list.

Mr. Morales answered he was and also sits on a couple of boards. He also stated that it is okay to sit on a couple of boards, but wanted the council to be aware.

Councilman Register and Mayor Durand-Hollis asked if there would be any conflict sitting on the Board of Adjustment and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Morales related the Zoning Commission hears requests and sends their recommendations to the City Council. Board of Adjustment makes their own decision and if the requestor goes against it they go to district court and not to City Council.

Mayor Durand-Hollis clarified with Mr. Morales that if Mr. Boom was appointed to Zoning there would not be a situation where he would be listening to an appeal of a lower decision that he was a part of.

Mr. Morales reiterated that Zoning Commission only recommends to city council and the Board of Adjustment's appeal goes to district court.

Mr. Morales provided section 78.20 of the Code of Ordinances that shows the duties of the zoning commission and paragraph J showing the duties for the board of adjustment for council to review.

Councilwoman Cronk asked if the board of adjustment is an element of zoning or if it is separate.

Mr. Morales replied that it is separate, but very similar. It was confirmed with the city attorney Marc Schnall with Christian Brother's Automotive that the appeal would go to district court in regards to the setback request with the board of adjustment.

Councilman Register was concerned with a conflict of interest.

Councilman Allen stated that there is no conflict of interest only of personal interest.

Mayor Durand-Hollis provided three choices to the council to table the conversation and see if any other candidates come forward, appoint Mr. Boom or leave it vacant deliberately.

Mr. Morales added that when he spoke to Mr. Boom he would be willing to step up to serve because he wants to help the city and knows there are not that many volunteers.

Councilman Allen moved to approve Mr. Doug Boom as a new member to the Zoning Commission, seconded by Councilwoman Worley. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion/action regarding the September 30, 2014 and October 31, 2014 financial statements.

Councilman Register stated there was not too much to report with it being the beginning of the year.

Councilman Register moved to approve the September and October financials, seconded by Councilwoman Worley. Motion passed unanimously.

Possible Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074, Personnel Matters. No action will be taken in Executive Session. Any action will be taken in open session.

At this time, Mayor Durand-Hollis called a recess at 5:33 pm and the council went into executive session.

Mayor Durand-Hollis reconvened the meeting from executive session at 5:51 pm.

11. Discussion/action regarding the annual evaluation and compensation of City Administrator/Chief of Police Frank Morales.

Mayor Durand-Hollis expressed his appreciation for the work that Mr. Morales has contributed as both City Administrator and Chief of Police and that he has done very well.

Councilman Register commended Mr. Morales in the way he has grown into the job of City Administrator and that he has been responsive to everything he has been asked of.

Councilwoman Worley expressed Mr. Morales' relations that he has managed to build and maintain is impressive and has benefited the city very well.

Councilwoman Cronk expressed thanks for all he has done with the changing landscape we have been in and continue to be.

Councilman Allen expressed his thanks for the way Mr. Morales has given him background of situations to understand better as a council person and cannot speak more highly of.

Mayor Durand-Hollis talked to Councilman Evans who would echo some of the same comments. He also wanted to note that he received phone calls from the residents of Hollywood Park about the police officers handing out cookies to the children on the first day of school to remind about speed limits in school zones set a very positive tone.

Councilman Register made a motion to increase the compensation of Mr. Morales by 3%, seconded by Councilwoman Worley. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Mayor's Report to Council.

Mayor Durand-Hollis inquired if the road project was about to start.

Mr. Morales stated that they have started to stage their equipment, but are waiting for SAWS to complete their work on South Tower Drive.

13. Communications with the City Administrator/Chief of Police.

Mr. Morales informed the council that City Hall will be closed Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th, to celebrate Thanksgiving. Mr. Morales also informed the council that City Hall will be closed December 24th, 25th and 26th for Christmas and January 1st for New Year's Day.

14. Adjourn

The Council reserves the right to discuss and appropriately act upon any item stated on this agenda in open session. The Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultations 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) and 551.086 (Economic Development). No action may be taken in Executive Session.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Approved this 15th day of January 2015.

Gabriel Durand-Hollis
Mayor

ATTEST:

Frank Morales
City Administrator
Acting City Secretary