



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 14, 2023
MINUTES**

A meeting of the City Council ("Council") of the Village of The Hills ("the Village") was held in person and 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:

Present:

Greg Wharton, Mayor
Hilda C. Potsavich, Mayor Pro Tem
Sarah Carroll, Councilmember

Rick Van Dalen, Councilmember, Treasurer
Jim Vick, Councilmember, Secretary
Amy Ovlen Wharton, Councilmember

thus, constituting a quorum.

Also present were Dean Huard, City Manager, Sonja De La Fuente, City Secretary, Village of The Hills, Luis Ozuna, Deputy Constable, Tom Stiles, Hurst Creek MUD, and Tom Harrelson, The Hills POA.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. The Council convened to Executive Session at 9:01 A.M.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 §551.071 (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), and as authorized by the Texas Tax Code including, but not limited to Section 321.3022 (Sales Tax Information).

- Pursuant to Government Code §551.071, consultation with attorney regarding Interlocal Agreement with Hurst Creek Municipal Utility District

The City Council reconvened the open meeting at 9:34 A.M. There was no reportable action.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPOINTMENTS

None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Nelson commented that ClubCorp is removing trees in the tee box area of the 11th hole. He noted that according to the POA Landscape Committee the next three to four months are not a good time to plant trees. He requested the City urge ClubCorp to move forward. He also expressed concern with a husband and wife relationship on the City Council and cited Texas Government Code Section 573. He suggested another election.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of the February 14, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Finance/Treasurer's Report for February 2023
- C. Resolution adding Dean Huard as an authorized signer with PlainsCapital
- D. Resolution adding Dean Huard as an authorized representative with TexPool

Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich noted that Tom Harrelson with the POA attended the February 14th Council Meeting.

Councilmember Van Dalen advised he is working on the format of the Financial Report. He reviewed the General Fund and noted that projects are over budget. Property Taxes are under budget and Sales Tax are up. Overall, he believes the City is on budget. The budget does not include money for clean-up after the winter storm.

Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich moved approval of the consent agenda with the correction to the minutes; Councilmember Van Dalen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. REPORTS

A. Law Enforcement

Deputy Constable Ozuna reviewed the written report. February was a calm month overall. He worked 152 hours for the month. He observed a coyote crossing the road, but he did not receive any reports from citizens.

B. POA Liaison

Councilmember Vick reported that the minutes from the last meeting are online. Tom Harrelson was elected President and Hayden Alvey was elected Vice President. The

Short-Term Rental rule is in effect. POA Board Liaison Tom Harrelson advised that one of the short-term rentals in The Hills has converted to a long-term rental.

C. MUD Liaison

Councilmember Carroll advised the MUD has not met since the last meeting, therefore there was nothing to report.

D. Parks Liaison

Councilmember Carroll reported that nominations were accepted, and Gary Weldon was appointed Chair. They are discussing an event on May 7th with live music and picnic style. This would be a good event to welcome the new City Manager Dean Huard. There is \$9,000 remaining in the budget for this Fiscal Year and the Parks and Recreation Commission would like to know how much could be used for this event.

Councilmember Vick asked about a landscape plan for the Park.

E. YAC Liaison

Councilmember Wharton reported that the Youth Advisory Commission met on March 5th. There are 10 members; seven regularly attend meetings and three regularly only attend activities. Splashfest is their biggest activity of the year and requested a budget. They will investigate holding the event at the end of June, as Council believes the end of July is too warm. Their next meeting is April 16th.

F. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dean Huard provided a report as follows:

- Weekly Updates - sending weekly updates to the Mayor and City Council and requested feedback.
- Debris Removal - scheduled a meeting with Chad from LandCare to get a better plan to complete debris removal. He thanked the Council for everything they have done. He will be working with Public Works at Lakeway. He received a \$70,000 invoice for the Village of The Hills' contribution. FEMA has not declared Mara as a natural disaster yet.
- Coyotes - it is a widespread issue with residents. He will be talking to two regional representatives from Texas Wildlife regarding trapping. He will also get a commercial vendor quote.
- Oak Wilt – recommended getting Carl from Texas A&M Forest Service out in April.
- Transition – going well.

G. Mayor's Report

Mayor Wharton provided a report as follows:

- Covid Relief Funds – funds have been moved to an interest-bearing account.
- Coyotes – Austin and Lakeway have a coexistence policy. Escalation matrix – incident level is when personnel are engaged. Citizens should call 311 or 911 to report. Will publish Lakeway Coyote content. Develop policy, deliver communication. Will utilize all free resources and if needed price out. The Hills will not be removing coyotes by human intervention.
- Law Enforcement – contacted the Constable's office. The contract expired in October. The five-year renewal has been received, but we are not willing to sign at this time. Will use through the end of the Fiscal Year. In the meantime, examine cost/coverage. Implement 25-50% straight time patrol hour increase. Dean will follow up.
- Volunteer Dinner – this is an important annual event that should continue. Mayor Pro Tem Hilda indicated may have to go offsite.

Councilmember Vick asked how much in Covid relief funds is available and what will it be used for. The Mayor advised \$600,000 for major park restoration, walking trail and to remedy the recent disaster.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action related to storm recovery.

The Mayor provided the report for this item. He was hoping to have the Emergency Management Coordinator present to provide an update, however Waheeda was not able to attend. According to his data the City has met the statutory threshold and will continue to pursue it. Dean advised that per Lakeway 75% recovery is possible through FEMA. He explained that Waheeda files for us and all documentation has been sent to her. He noted that the City is taking care of all City-owned property with priority given to the Park and Walking Trail areas. Once that is complete and curbside is complete the City will move on to the greenbelts. There was discussion held among the Council regarding the remaining work to be done. Dean will be meeting with LandCare regarding this. Mayor Pro Tem Hilda requested an update on the Fencecrete repairs on Lohmans.

- B. Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to reinstate the No Oak Wilt Trimming Ordinance No. 2018-04 suspended during storm recovery.

Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich proposed reinstating the Oak Wilt Ordinance and modifying the state of emergency, which is in effect until the end of March.

Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich moved to reinstate the No Oak Wilt Trimming Ordinance No. 2018-04 and notify residents; Councilmember Vick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- C. Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action regarding walking trail maintenance.

Councilmember Carroll provided the report for this item. She indicated that repairs are needed from the storm and regular maintenance. She received suggestions to power wash or street sweep. Dean will investigate available options.

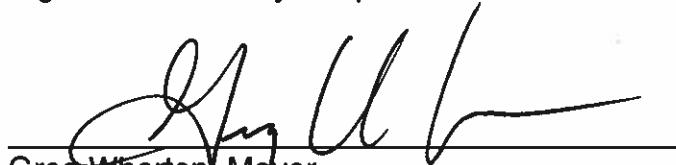
9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS

- New business items to be included on the next agenda.
 - ½-Year Deeper Dive Financial Report
 - Walking Trail – Dam Bridge – Scope/Alternatives
 - Park Commission Volunteer Applicant Consideration
 - Park Revitalization Landscape Design – Allocate Funds
 - City Manager Report on Fence and Intersection
 - Alternative Entrance to The Hills (project update)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Vick moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 A.M.; Mayor Pro Tem Potsavich seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Signed this 11th day of April 2023.

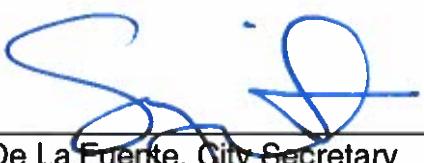


Greg Wharton, Mayor

(Seal)



ATTEST:



Sonja De La Fuente, City Secretary