

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 24, 2019

A Regular Meeting was held by the Grey Forest City Council of the City of Grey Forest, Texas on September 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Grey Forest Council Chambers, 18502 Scenic Loop Road, Grey Forest, Texas.

The following members present to-wit:

Mayor Phillip Howard	Council member Sean Skaggs
Council member Susan Darst	Council member Geri Poss
Council member Kimberly Verity	Council member Jennifer Nottingham

Staff Present:

Sgt. Scott Ristow	City Secretary Shannan Kinsley
Deputy Chief Frank Francis	Assistant City Secretary Joni Baker

Citizen's Present:

Don Reddout
Madeline McCloskey
Gigi Duke
Pat Howard
Mauricio Flores

Call to Order – City Council Regular Session

Mayor Howard called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States

(Mayor Howard)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes – Consideration and/or action regarding the approval of the minutes of the City Council Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2019. Mayor Howard recognized Council member Nottingham who asked to change on Pg. 2, the 6th paragraph, 2nd line to read “Not only is it an eye sore but”, not buy. *Mayor Howard recognized Council member Nottingham who moved to approve the minutes as amended and was seconded by Council member Verity. The vote was unanimous with Council members Skaggs, Darst and Poss voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.*

Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of August 27th, 2019. Mayor Howard recognized *Council member Skaggs who moved to approve the minutes as written and was*

seconded by Council member Nottingham. The vote was unanimous with Council members Verity, Darst and Poss voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.

Approval of the Budget Public Hearing Minutes of September 11, 2019. Mayor Howard recognized Council member Nottingham who asked to change on Pg. 2, under Parks and Programs to read “two checks were given to the City, one for \$6,020 and one for \$1,500”. Same paragraph change to read “At the Madla Park Board Meeting, Ron Green made the motion”. Mayor Howard recognized *Council member Verity who moved to approve as amended and was seconded by Council member Poss. The vote was unanimous with Council members Skaggs, Darst and Nottingham voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.*

Presentations by Citizens and Visitors - None

Mayor Announcements - None

August 2019 Monthly Financials

Mayor Howard announced the following:

- Line 100, Professional Fees has large increase for the Codification and Boundary Survey
- Line 111, Office Supplies is for the Assistant City Secretary office equipment
- Line 113, Office Equipment Maintenance is for the upgrade of technology
- Line 126, Board of Adjustment has had more meetings than expected
- Line 129, Bank Charges they are charging an analysis fee. We will look into what that is.
- Line 131, Internet Development & Web is for adding technology, updating the City website and .gov emails
- Line 415, Vehicle Maintenance is replacement of the radiator in a police vehicle allowing another 3 years of life and reducing wear/tear on other vehicles.

Council/Staff Announcements – None

Committee Announcements/Reports – None

Grey Forest Community Board (GFCB) Update

Mayor Howard recognized Madeline McCloskey who provided the following announcements:

- Announced National Night Out
- Halloween Hayride is coming up
- Grey Forest Arbor Day November 2, 2019 – Looking for Volunteers. Will be planting small trees first then larger trees at a later date. GFU will help with the large trees.

Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area Update

Mayor Howard recognized Council member Nottingham who provided the following announcements:

- Announced they are maintaining the trails and watering trees

- October 3, 2019 from 7pm to 8:30pm they will be hosting a Moon Viewing and Star Watching get together. The Astronomer will bring telescopes.

City Events and Announcements

Thursday, October 3rd

Moon Viewing and Star Watching

Astronomer will bring telescopes

Tuesday, October 8th, 6pm-8pm

National Night Out

Education and Games

TBA

Halloween

Hayride

Saturday, November 2nd

Grey Forest Arbor Day

Plant Memorial Trees with volunteers

Board of Adjustment Update - None

Police Department Activity Report

Mayor Howard recognized Deputy Chief Frank Francis who provided the following announcements:

- Announcement of the August 2019 Monthly Report: 1109 hours worked, 4797 miles driven, 342 total calls for service, 27 Summons, 30 total stops with 7 warnings. 1 VCO.
- End of August was the last of the training cycle. They had 100% compliance with the State for training.

Sgt. Scott Ristow announced National Night Out on October 8th from 6 pm – 8 pm. Events will include CPR, handcuffs for kids, dummies to punch and gun safety.

Public Works Announcements

Mayor Howard provided the following announcements:

- Public Works continues citizen brush chipping and mowing City/Madla property
- Road Work continues on Scenic Loop Road. Leveling was done and the One Course Application was laid. Next step will be the edge stressing. Then Clark Construction will start the Mastic Application and then Striping.

GFU Utility Announcements – None

Fire Department Report

Mayor Howard recognized Don Reddout who provided the following announcements:

- Announcement of August 2019 Incident Report: total of 8 calls - 5 Medical and 3 Public Service. Average response time 2.25 minutes. Average personnel 3.
- Contract has been signed on the new Fire Station. Construction will start any day.
- They're working on specs for a ladder truck. The build out is at least one year.

New Business

1. **Discuss and Act on Ordinance No. 234 making appropriations for support of the City of Grey Forest and adopting the annual budget of the City of Grey Forest for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year** - Mayor Howard recognized *Council member Verity who made the motion to accept Ordinance No. 234 and was seconded by Council member Skaggs. The motion passed with Council members Darst and Poss voting yes and Nottingham voting opposed as she has issues with Budget. Ordinance passed 4 to 1.*
2. **Discuss and Act on: "Ratification of the vote to adopt the budget that will raise total property tax revenue"** – For clarification, it was noted that property values have gone up but not because the City is raising taxes. Mayor Howard recognized *Council member Darst who moved to approve ratification of the vote to adopt the budget that will raise total property tax revenue and was seconded by Council member Verity. The vote was unanimous with Council members Nottingham, Skaggs and Poss voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.*
3. **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 recognized *Council member Darst who made the motion to accept the Amended Budget Cover Page to record vote of each member of the governing body by name voting on the adoption of the budget and was seconded by Council member Poss. The vote was unanimous with Council members Nottingham, Verity and Skaggs voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.*
4. **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 4.967% increase in the tax rate** – Mayor Howard stated property values have increased. Mayor Howard recognized *Council member Darst who 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 4.967% increase in the tax rate and was seconded by Council member Poss. The vote was unanimous with Council members Nottingham, Verity and Skaggs voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.*
5. **Discuss and Act on Ordinance No. 235 levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government for the 2019/2020 fiscal year by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.088441/\$100** - Mayor Howard recognized *Council member Darst who made the motion*

to accept Ordinance No. 235 and was seconded by Council member Poss. The vote was unanimous with Council members Nottingham, Verity and Skaggs voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.

6. **Discuss and Act on purchasing name badges for the Mayor and City Council members for use when attending meetings** – Mayor Howard stated with more community involvement, it would be nice to be recognized with a shirt or badge. Mayor Howard recognized Council member Nottingham who presented a sample badge. The badge has a magnetic back and is made by Badgeman in San Antonio for \$9.00 each. There's a 5-7 business day turnaround. Council member Darst stated an alternative idea is shirts through Land's End with embroidery that would run approximately \$50.00 each and would look sharp. Mayor Howard recognized Council members for their preference of a shirt or badge. Council member Nottingham stated she would like to proceed with badges and then take time to look into ordering shirts later. Council member Poss stated she likes badges. Council member Verity stated she is open to both. Council member Skaggs stated he like both ideas. Mayor Howard recognized *Council member Poss who made the motion that the City purchase badges for Council members and the Mayor and was seconded by Council member Skaggs. The vote was unanimous with Council members Nottingham, Verity and Darst voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.* Council member Nottingham will take the lead on ordering silver badges with black writing and Council member Darst will look into shirts.

7. **Discuss and Act On a Police Volunteer Program of issuing Grey Forest stickers for resident vehicles to help in their efforts to keep crime low** – Mayor Howard stated the program would issue car stickers to Grey Forest residents to help our Police Officers identify that the car does belong in Grey Forest. Council member Nottingham stated she supports the sticker. Council member Verity stated she didn't think we received much feedback from the last sticker. Mayor Howard stated he proposes a contest involving citizens on the design of the sticker. Mayor Howard will work with Chief Rodriguez on it. Mayor Howard recognized *Council member Poss who made the motion to approve the program and was seconded by Council member Darst. The vote was unanimous with Council members Nottingham, Verity and Skaggs voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.*

8. **Discuss request to sample groundwater at the Clubhouse Well** – Mayor Howard stated the City received a request from Ron Green to sample groundwater from the capped well by the Clubhouse. Hydrologists at Southwest Research Institute will be conducting groundwater sampling in the Helotes Creek Watershed and they are seeking official permission to sample the well at the Clubhouse. This is part of a project funded by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA). This project supports a different project funded by the City of San Antonio Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) that's focusing on the impacts of Wastewater Disposal in the Recharge and Contributing Zones of the of Edwards Aquifer. The water analysis results will be shared with the City of Grey Forest and available in the public domain once complete. Mayor Howard stated there are some parts of the study that Southwest Research

can't share with us. He sees no benefit to the City granting this request. It may open us up to possible negative issues for the City and to the citizens. It could open up the City to what was experienced when SLPC property was transferred to the City and there was a complaint made ending up costing the City around \$10,000 to plug the well behind Grey Moss Inn. We don't know what other potential issues are out there. The Grey Forest Water System is rated as outstanding and is tested monthly. This is not a health issue for our citizens. Mayor Howard recognized Mauricio Flores with Southwest Research and works with Ron Green. Mauricio Flores stated the project is funded by EAA. They will be testing groundwater and surface water. They are checking for nitrogen, phosphorus, PPS and PH. There are 10 candidate wells. Mayor Howard stated there are enough wells along the creek that can be sampled. The issue is when you start looking into one issue, other issues can come up that you weren't originally looking into. Laurie Hawkins is against having it checked and Jeff English doesn't believe it's a good idea. Council member Poss stated it is hard for her to understand why you would sample a capped well. She doesn't see where the City will gain anything from this. Council member Nottingham stated she believes it could be a better sample because it is not being disturbed by constant use and sitting still. Council member Darst stated that if something comes up, don't we want to know. Mayor Howard stated he's not concerned with the water, it's the other issues that can go along with it. The well was capped professionally. Council member Verity stated her concern is not about finding algae or bacteria but something of a much bigger scope. SAWS is trying to expand down Scenic Loop Road. She has seen a document that shows SAWS is trying to expand and is looking at wells to boost their expansion. There is a document that shows SAWS and the EAA are corresponding. She is very reluctant to let anybody look and sample the well. Council member Nottingham asked if we can find out if the research for this project is tied to SAWS expanding water and sewer in this direction. Mauricio Flores stated that is not the goal of Southwest Research. The goal for the project is to find out if you have a septic system near the watershed, how that affects the environment. Mayor Howard recognized ***Council member Nottingham who made the motion to refuse this request and was seconded by Council member Skaggs. The vote passed with Council member Verity and Council member Poss voting yes and Council member Darst voting opposed. Motion passed 4-1.***

Unfinished Business

9. ***Discuss and act on options for C6 trash and recycling pickup*** – Mayor Howard explained presently, the cost of trash/recycling pickup is \$54,162 to the City which is more than the property tax income received of \$49,625. On August 27, 2019, C6 made a presentation to City Council about the recycling world changing quickly. On August 30, 2019, Republic Services notified C6 their recycling agreement would expire, and the inbound recycling will be priced based upon the market rates. On September 10, 2019, C6 advised the City the rate C6 will be charging the City is going to triple as the costs are going from \$20 to \$65 per ton and may increase from there on a month to month basis based on the market. Mayor Howard stated he spoke with Jorge Cantu, owner of C6 on several occasions on the recycling challenge and developed four possible courses of action which could be taken by the City:

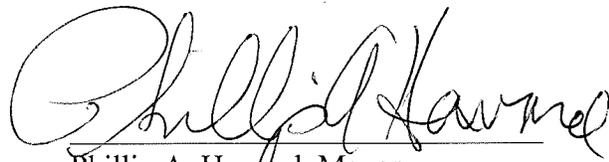
1) continue twice weekly trash pickup and recycling twice per month meaning no change to service which action will increase the City's expense by \$4,636 per year assuming there are no monthly increases 2) continue twice weekly trash pickup and the recycling program but with only one recycling pick up per month which increases the City's expense by \$3,018 assuming there will be no monthly increase 3) discontinue recycling and the cost to the City would decline by a little over \$942 and 4) the City discontinue paying citizen trash/recycling and the City would save \$54,162. It's estimated the cost to citizens would be \$21.85 per home, per month for trash services. Council member Nottingham stated we cannot stop paying for citizens garbage. Mayor Howard stated this will be the first year to really devote money to the streets. Council member Darst stated Helotes garbage is going up 20%. We do need to devote more funds to our roads and infrastructure, but she would like to see a small fund that would assist families that can not pay for it. Council member Poss stated we could qualify families for assistance that can't afford it. Council member Nottingham stated she'd like to consider stopping recycling now and put off citizens paying for their own trash until next year. Council member Verity stated she feels the City has tried to go above and beyond to preserve the character of the area, but it takes money to maintain the parks, Community Center, roads and water flow. Council member Poss stated recycling is a national/worldwide issue, it's not something that City Council has done and it's happening to everyone. Council member Darst stated there will be an adjustment period and we will have to educate our citizens as to why these decisions were made and can come up with an assistance program. Council member Poss stated she agrees with assistance if there are citizens who are financially challenged and there needs to be a criteria set early for it. Mayor Howard stated the City should end recycling now but could delay the individual garbage for 3 months to work out details. Council member Poss stated that would allow enough time to get a plan in place. Council member Skaggs stated he agrees that you can't pull the rug out from under the citizens that have had their garbage paid for from conception. He agrees January 1 would be good and a program in place to help those who cannot afford. Mayor Howard stated he will send out a letter to citizens explaining the issue, so they have some background. Mayor Howard stated he assumes Council is moving forward with Option 4; discontinue recycling and trash services being switched from City paid to individual pay on January 1, 2020 with implementation of an assistance program. It was requested these actions be made in two separate motions. Mayor Howard recognized ***Council member Poss who moved to discontinue recycling effective October 1, 2019 or at the latest date possible in dealing with C6 and was seconded by Council member Darst. The vote was unanimous with Council members Nottingham, Verity and Skaggs voting for and no one voting no. Motion Passed.***

Mayor Howard recognized ***Council member Poss who moved to discontinue the City paying for regular trash services and individual citizens being billed by C6 effective January 1, 2020 and an endowment assistance program be created for those who cannot afford to pay for their trash service and was seconded by Council member Skaggs. The vote passed with Council members Verity and Darst voting for and Council member Nottingham voting opposed. Motion passed 4-1.***

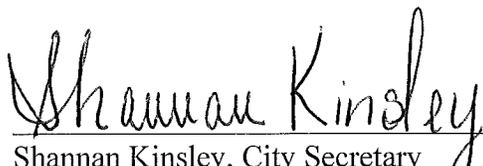
10. Discuss and act on procedures for City Council and Board members regarding Social Media – Mayor Howard stated as an interim step prior to the development of a City Social Media Policy, he would like to see if Council will authorize the Mayor to send a letter to each Council member, Staff and Board members informing them prior to the posting of anything on a Social Media Site where they identify themselves associated with or as representatives of the City, they need to have it reviewed by the Mayor prior to posting. This is an interim step until we can get a policy in place. This is for City business only. Council member Darst stated she can get a copy of the Helotes Policy. Council member Verity stated this is a temporary step until Council decides and agrees what our policy should be. She feels there needs to be a meeting quarterly with all City Boards and Council to have an open dialogue. Mayor Howard recognized ***Council member Nottingham who made the motion as interim step, authorize the Mayor to inform Council members, Staff and Board members that prior to the posting of anything on a Social Media Site where they identify themselves associated with or as representatives of the City, they need to have it reviewed by the Mayor prior to posting and was seconded by Council member Skaggs. The vote was unanimous with Council members Verity, Darst and Poss voting yes and no one voting no. Motion passed.***

Adjournment

As there was no further business, Mayor Howard adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.


Phillip A. Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shannan Kinsley, City Secretary