

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015
WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Whiting called the City of Hilshire Village Council Meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. at 8301 Westview, Houston, Texas 77055.

1.1 Present: were Mayor Shannon Whiting, Mayor Pro Tem Paul Maddock and Council Members Michael Gordy, Stephanie Post and Russell Herron. Also, present were City Administrator Susan Blevins, former Mayor Mike Andrews, City of Spring Valley, Mayor Brian Muecke, City of Hedwig Village and Trevor Royal and Bo Egbert, WCA. Council Member David Gunn was absent.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Bill Bristow, 1233 Pine Chase, said there was nothing in the public view book and there has been no discussion about Item 3.1 so how can citizens make any comments. He would like more information on the subject and this was the only time for comments. Mayor Whiting stated that there would be a chance for comments before the vote and back-up information had been given at previous meetings.

Mr. Bristow also commented that he thought an item on the Consent Agenda had been left off the Agenda and was vague. Mayor Whiting said the item was 3.4 on the Consent Agenda and it did not have to be specific.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

3.1 Council Member Post made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with TxDOT, City of Houston and the Memorial Villages for installation of Next Generation Concrete Surface Grinding Process to mitigate I-10 freeway noise under revised scope of work, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Maddock.

Mayor Whiting stated TxDOT was not going to be able to apply the grinding and grooving on the deck of the overpass areas that affect Hilshire Village at Wirt Road and the overpass at Spring Creek. There is an estimated area of eight hundred (800) feet that would not be worked. Mayor Andrews was present to answer questions and made some comments on how this issue might still help Hilshire's noise level. All the other three (3) Villages have approved their participation and funds for the project. Hilshire Village's portion would be an interest free loan of \$100,000.00 total with payments of \$20,000.00 per year over five years. The money would come from Metro funds.

Council Member Post asked which Villages were participating. They are Hedwig Village, Spring Valley, Hunter's Creek and Hilshire Village, all of which have frontage on the freeway. The City of Houston is also participating and they are putting in fifty percent (50%) of the total TxDOT was asking as they have fifty-one percent (51%) of the frontage, Hwy 610 Exit ramp (Silber) to Memorial Village Way.

Mayor Andrews has been the advisor on the noise mitigation. The project is about 4.7 miles (25,000 feet) and only nine point four (9.4%) cannot have the grinding. He said the sound reduction would be about seventy percent (70%) or two (2) to five (5) decibels. Illinois and Minnesota have been using this method for about four (4) years and are seeing a gradual reduction of noise.

Mayor Andrews said the Cities hear a constant ambient roar from the freeway. With this predicted reduction the City should hear less noise on the decks as well as on the ground.

Hedwig Village did a study in 2010 that showed the noise exceeded the Federal noise guidelines. The Project is \$12,000,000.00 and the villages are putting in \$800,000.00. TxDOT is stating there will be a reduction in noise but they are not giving any guarantee. Hilshire Village's portion is 1.7% of the project. Hilshire Village is paying one percent (1%) of the total cost.

There are seven overpasses. The overpass at Hilshire Village over Spring Branch Creek is the longest. The estimated amount is based loosely on the frontage percentage with a base. The contract is the same as was previously approved by Council and the amount has not changed. The life of the grooving is estimated to be the same as the life of the pavement. The decking is not engineered to hold the weight of asphalt so that option was denied.

Bill Bristow, 1233 Pine Chase, said he was against this project because he does not hear the freeway noise at his house and he does not trust TxDOT.

Council Member Herron pointed out that the money is coming out of Metro Funds, not the resident's taxes. He has doubts, but he thinks it is worth a try. Council Member Post thought that there should be a reduction in the cost for Hilshire Village. Mayor Whiting pointed out that the noise is a quality of life issue. Council Member Gordy said that the frontage is not the major issue as the noise affects a large number of residents and also affects home values. Mayor Pro Tem Maddock was not happy that the scope of the project had changed but the cost remained the same.

Mayor Whiting stated the City of Hunter's Creek and TxDOT will be measuring noise levels at the end of the project.

A vote was taken to approve the motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with TxDOT, City of Houston and the Memorial Villages for installation of Next Generation Concrete Surface Grinding Process to mitigate I-10 freeway noise under revised scope of work. The vote passed unanimously.

3.2 Mayor Pro Tem Maddock made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a three (3) year contract with Waste Corporation of Texas, L.P., for solid waste and recycling disposal with solid waste services to stay the same but increase recycling to weekly instead of bi-weekly, seconded by Council Member Gordy.

Mayor Whiting introduced Trevor Royal and Bo Egbert from Waste Corporation of Texas stating they were here to answer Council's questions. Financial and other remedies for non-performance have been added. The start date is January 1, 2016 due to cart availability. WCA will provide educational information that can be used to help the residents understand the services and what products can be recycled. Carts will be delivered one day between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day. The service is in the front of the garage door so it will continue to be run as it is now. Residents with items that will not fit into the cart will be encouraged to take them to the local school.

City Administrator Blevins said Bo Egbert was working with her to see if he could get the City a pick-up for recycling for the Thanksgiving week.

Council Member Post was concerned that the penalties added were not strong enough. Mayor Whiting said the penalty numbers were agreed to and added by the City Attorney, Kim Mickelson and WCA. The numbers are significant to WCA and are based on the income generated. Typically, only one or two houses may be missed. There will be a transition period.

If an area in the City was missed by at least twenty percent (20%) or sixty (60) homes out of 300, the penalty would be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per missed home so sixty homes equals three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00). If there are three (3) occurrences of problems, there is a one hundred dollars (\$100.00) penalty over and above the other fees.

If a resident's trash or recycling is not picked up, the resident needs to call the City office. The City office will record and notify WCA. It will then be investigated, WCA will have opportunity to correct and then if not corrected the City can deduct penalties from the invoice. City Administrator Blevins stated that the norm is "the resident reports their home was missed, the City sends an e-mail and WCA sends another truck out to collect". Mr. Bo Egbert will be supervising the account.

One truck will handle the City with one crew. WCA is standardizing the crews. Re-cycling is a different truck and a different crew, but the same crew every week. The new carts are for re-cycling. Trash containers are the same one residents have in use now, their own personal ones.

A vote was taken to approve the motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a three (3) year contract with Waste Corporation of Texas, L.P., for solid waste and recycling disposal with solid waste services to stay the same but increasing recycling to weekly instead of bi-weekly. The vote passed unanimously.

3.3 Mayor Pro Tem Maddock made a motion to authorize the Mayor to approve the Rules and Bylaws presented at the Harris County Mayors' and Councils' Association meeting, seconded by Council Member Herron. **A vote was taken to approve the motion authorizing the Mayor to approve the Rules and Bylaws presented at the Harris County Mayors' and Councils' Association meeting. The vote passed unanimously.**

3.4 Mayor Pro Tem Maddock made a motion to approve the disbursements presented for FYE 2015, seconded by Council Member Gordy. **A vote was taken to approve the motion approving the disbursements presented for FYE 2015. The vote passed unanimously.**

4. WORKSHOP: Discussion on the Zoning Ordinance –

Mayor Whiting thanked Council Member Herron and resident, Mr. Coe for installing the projector screen.

Council Member Herron acknowledged the Zoning Committee Members present at the meeting and all their work that has gone into the project. The Committee is bringing some major policy issues to Council and he would like feedback from Council and the residents.

There are ten (10) items that the committee needs input from Council which will guide them in the direction they need to proceed with. Mayor Whiting said the time limited for tonight's discussion was one (1) hour, so most likely will not be able to discuss all items.

The items discussed during this workshop were related to Specific Use Permits and whether they should have a time limit and the conditions for their renewal; Commercial Zones as to how large a footprint a building should be allowed to be; how ordinances are to be enforced and if the City should add a licensed professional inspector; the fact that in the City there are three hundred nine (309) homes of which 38 homes do not conform to the current Zoning Ordinances; and what consideration needs to be given when enforcing the Zoning Ordinances if future redevelopment presents a conflict. Time was limited so the Committee will return for a workshop with Council.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Maddock made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Post. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Shannon Whiting, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Blevins, City Secretary