

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: Council Member Gunn called the City of Hilshire Village Special Council Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. at 8301 Westview, Houston, Texas 77055.

1.2 Present: Council Members Mike Gordy, Robert Swanson and David Gunn. Mayor Pro Tem Maddock came in late. Also present were Spring Valley Police Lieutenant Wood and City Administrator Susan Blevins. Mayor Russell Herron was absent.

2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

2.1 Council Member Gunn made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-173 of the City of Hilshire Village approving an Amendment to Resolution No. 2018-169 that approved an expenditure by the Village Fire Commission from Fund 4 Facilities for a roof replacement in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.00 to approve the allocation by the Village Fire Commission of Funds received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the 3rd Quarter Ambulance Reimbursement Funds towards the total cost of the roof replacement and thereby reducing the total cost and resulting proportionate share for the City of Hilshire, seconded by Council Member Gordy.

Fire Commissioner Byrne said this will reduce the cost to the City for the roof replacement by utilizing FEMA funds received.

A vote was taken to approve the motion approving Resolution No. 2018-173 of the City of Hilshire Village amending Resolution No. 2018-169 that approved an expenditure by the Village Fire Commission from Fund 4 Facilities for a roof replacement in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.00 to approve the allocation by the Village Fire Commission of Funds received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the 3rd Quarter Ambulance Reimbursement Funds towards the total cost of the roof replacement and thereby reducing the total cost and resulting proportionate share for the City of Hilshire Village. The vote passed unanimously.

2.2 Council Member Swanson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with a company to alleviate the over population of coyotes that are creating a health and safety hazard for the community and to seek the cooperation of the City of Spring Valley for a cost sharing. The City will utilize funds in the current budget from the contingency account regardless if Spring Valley participates, seconded by Council Member Gordy.

Betty Westenfelder, 1310 Bridle Spur Lane, said the City has a problem. She is concerned for the safety of children who may come into contact with the coyotes. Ms. Westenfelder stated the children do not know a coyote from a dog and the City needs to protect them.

Ruth Rogers, 1318 Bridle Spur and also a Spring Valley Resident, stated she has lost two pets to the coyotes and the rate of population growth will get out of hand soon. Mrs. Rogers said the coyotes are multiplying and that we need to control them now. She said the residents are prisoners in their own home. She should be able to let her dog in and out through a doggy door.

Gerald Fitts, 1253 Archley Drive, said he has seen large coyotes (the size of pit bulls) walking within eyesight of him without exhibiting signs of fear. He stated the City needs to try to alleviate this problem before a child is hurt.

Janis Terry, 14 Fries Court - Spring Valley Resident, stated she spoke with Diana Foss with Texas Parks & Wildlife who gave her some information on coyotes. She said the coyotes typically go after small rodents and unless provoked or feel threatened generally would not attack a dog. She said there are possible alternate explanations for the deceased animal remains that have been found. Coyotes would generally take the entire animal instead of killing and leaving it.

Kelli Little, 1237 Archley Drive, stated she sees the same coyotes daily in her back yard, they are not afraid of her or her large dog. She said her backyard no longer belongs to her and her family and that there is a pack of four (4) that have taken over. They sleep and howl all night. When she or her husband go outside to try to chase them off there is one (1) in particular who will not run off and just stares them down. She has three (3) children and two (2) dogs and they are unable to play in her backyard anymore because the coyotes are invasive and scary. She is nervous for her children and her dogs.

Mitzy McCorvey, 10 Hickory Shadows, said she deals with coyotes at her cattle ranch and has seen one take down a full grown 12-point buck. She said she has a professional trapper who comes to the ranch every few months to control the population with trapping and euthanizing. Mrs. McCorvey said that is the only alternative for the City.

Laurie Geiger, 1119 Guinea Drive, stated she has only seen a couple of small coyotes in the fifty-four years she has lived in the City. She said she does not agree that it is the position of the City or residents to eradicate a species indicative of the wildlife that has been surviving in the area.

June Sommer, 1114 Guinea Drive, said the natural habitat of the coyotes has been developed into new residences and they are now seeking their resources from within the City. She said the coyotes did not bother residents in the past because there was plenty of wooded area for them to stay in. Mrs. Sommer said she has had several cats killed by the coyotes but she is worried about the children. She does not know the answer but she believes they need to be controlled.

Rick & Janet Wourms, 8201 Burkhart, stated over the last six (6) weeks they have had a pair of coyotes that are nesting under their deck and come out all hours of the day. They usually run out when someone walks on the deck. She no longer can let her grandchildren play on the deck. They have tried chasing them off but they continue to come back. Mrs. Wourms said they are getting braver. She does not want the coyotes poisoned because they will go under her deck and die. She no longer sees any bunnies.

Council Member Gunn said he grew up here and he never saw coyotes but now he sees them all the time. They have multiplied. He is more concerned with the children than pets. Council Member Gunn was wanting to know if the residents can take things into their own hands.

Mayor Pro Tem Maddock stated the coyotes have eliminated the bunnies, possums, armadillos and racoons.

Council Member Gordy said the City has met previously with experts from A&M and representatives from the City of Spring Valley and has been recording reports of coyote interactions. He said some members of the community are much more affected than others, depending on what part of the City they live in. There are several levels of problems; however, once you start seeing coyotes walking the streets all times of the day, following people down the street, circling people with dogs and animals go missing you know there is a problem. Most of the people in the City don't have a problem; however, those residents who live on the ravines have a serious problem because they have a greater concentration of coyotes. Council Member Gordy says he lives on the creek and has a small dog and small grandchildren. He said he now gets concerned when his wife takes them for a walk down their street in fear of them being attacked. Council Member Gordy said he was raised in the country, if you have a coyote problem you shoot them or poison them so country people don't have coyote

problems. He said these are not wild coyotes these are coyotes that jump over fences and live in resident's back yards. He said that they also hang out in his front yard.

Council Member Gordy said the coyote population needs to be reduced and then they will have more wildlife to live off of instead of the pets. He said the ideal situation would be to trap them and relocate them; however, the state does not allow them to be moved more than 10 miles and you have to get permission from the land owner prior to release. Council Member Gordy said that in River Oaks they reduced the population by around 13 and now it is manageable. The City would like to protect the wildlife but it is the City's job to protect the citizens.

Patchin Crawford, 1213 Archley Drive, said she has lived in the City for six years and in the last three (3) months she sees the coyotes daily at all times of the day, following the same path through the City. They enter and exit her property and she has a 65-pound dog who barks at the coyotes and they do not back down or leave. Her husband and her both yell and scream at them and they do not leave. The other afternoon her family was in the pool and briefly went inside to return to the coyotes circling the area. She no longer can utilize her back yard due to fear for the safety of her small children and her pets. She said they attacked and broke her neighbor's dog's leg.

Zandra Anderson, 8124 Mallie Court, said there are City ordinances in both Spring Valley and Hilshire Village that require pets to be restrained. She stated the animals lost while unrestrained or roaming through the night are not necessarily victims of coyotes, they could have been run over by a vehicle or attacked by other animals. She said the reports from citizens in the month since the A&M meeting in her opinion do not justify a major threat to the citizens. Ms. Anderson said the City needs to educate the people, otherwise even if you remove them they will come back.

Robb Ortiz, 8214 Mallie Court, said he has lived in the City for a few years and has not seen the coyotes but he does hear them and he does enjoy the nature. He stated that if the coyotes have turned to eating pets it is because they have to. Mr. Ortiz said he only thought coyotes only grow to 24 pounds or so.

David Schwab, developer and builder in Hilshire Village and a resident of Spring Valley, stated he lives near the same creek that runs through the City and has lost a dog to coyotes. He said while in his backyard playing with their grandchildren their dog dug out and they could hear him fighting with a coyote. After searching for days all they found was the head of his dog and the remains which had been stripped. While walking the creek looking for his dog he came across a pack of coyotes and one of them weighed approximately 50 pounds. Mr. Schwab said he spoke to one of Spring Valley's officers who told him he had

just seen six (6) coyotes on Mallie Court. Also, his neighbors were walking their three (3) dogs on a leash and their dog was attacked by a coyote.

Don Corley, 8830 Leafy Lane - Spring Valley Resident, stated he has lived in the area for several years and is able to see on his property and behind it near the ravine where the coyotes travel and possibly nest. He has coyotes on his property on a daily basis at various times of the day. The other afternoon his dog was barking excessively and when he went outside there was a very large coyote with its head stuck in the fence trying to get in his yard. Mr. Corley said he had to kick the fence for the coyote to leave. He feels the City's tax base is going to suffer due to the reputation of the wild animals. Mr. Corley said that he and his neighbors want them gone.

Ray Leiker, 1236 Archley Drive, stated he has lived in the City for 30 years and has not had a problem with the coyotes until recently. He said he has been stared down by coyotes and chased by them. He doesn't believe in eradicating them but they are too aggressive at this point and need to be controlled.

Jan Milz, 8302 Creekstone Circle, said she does not feel that the City is at risk of coyote over population because the coyotes will only breed as many pups as they can sustain and they are territorial so won't move into another pack's area. She said there also could be an increase in other types of wildlife such as owls which could take a small pet also.

Rick Rogers, 1318 Bridle Spur Lane, said the City is not dealing with wild coyotes but domesticated ones. He has noticed that the population of small animals like squirrels and racoons has been absent and he worries about what the coyotes will look for to eat when they run out of natural food. Mr. Rogers said if the City sits back and does nothing they need to at least send out notices to all the parents and schools with small children regarding the imminent threat of their child being attacked by coyotes.

Mayor Pro Tem Maddock stated the coyotes in this area are causing more trouble than the ones you would read about on the internet living in natural areas.

Council Member Swanson said something needs to be done to protect the citizens.

Council Member Gordy stated the hurricane last year has caused the coyotes to relocate to this area and there isn't enough land available for the number trying to live in the creek.

Council Member Gunn said there are limited solutions in dealing with this issue but that he believes we have some things we can do to alleviate the situation.

A vote was taken to approve the motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with a company to alleviate the over population of coyotes that are creating a health and safety hazard for the community and to seek the cooperation of the City of Spring Valley for a cost sharing. The City will utilize funds in the current budget from the contingency account regardless if Spring Valley participates. The vote passed unanimously.

3. DISCUSSION:

3.1 General Fund Budget for FYE 2019 and Tax Rate for 2018:

City Administrator Blevins stated that using the budget presented at the Council Workshop on August 23, 2018 she has prepared different options for Council to consider as the Proposed Tax Rate. The Proposed Tax Rate is the highest rate that Council will be able to adopt for the 2019 Budget. There are two (2) more hearings before the budget and tax rate is adopted.

Administrator Blevins explained that Council can adopt a rate in between the Effective Tax Rate and the Rollback Rate without risk of an election. She gave Council a worksheet showing options for them to consider when choosing the Proposed Tax Rate. Council discussed starting with the rollback rate and then they can adjust lower than that rate after more review of the budget.

4. ACTION ITEMS:

4.1 Mayor Pro Tem Maddock made a motion to approve the Rollback Rate of \$0.629/\$100 as the Proposed Tax Rate, seconded by Council Member Gordy.

City Administrator Blevins took a roll call vote to approve the motion approving the Proposed Rollback Rate to be \$0.629/\$100. Council Member Gordy, Council Member Swanson, Council Member Gunn and Mayor Pro Tem Maddock all voted for the motion. The vote was approved unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Public Hearings for the 2018 Tax Rate and FYE 2019 Budget will be held on September 13th at 6:30 PM and September 18th at 7:00 PM.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Gunn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Swanson.

A vote was taken to approve the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned 8:16 P.M.

David Gunn, Council Member

ATTEST:

Susan Blevins, City Secretary