

City of Woodbranch Village



Vera Craig, Mayor
Scott Essmeier, Council Position 1
Larry Beaird, Council Position 2

Mark Kroll, Council Position 3
Brent Purser, Council Position 4
Clay Dean, Council Position 5

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JUNE 27, 2019

The City of Woodbranch Village council met in a regular meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 27, 2019, in the City Hall Building at 58A Woodbranch Drive, New Caney, Texas, 77357. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call showed as being present Councilman Larry Beaird, Councilman Mark Kroll, Mayor Vera Craig, City Attorney Leonard Schneider, Councilman Brent Purser and Councilman Clay Dean. Councilman Scott Essmeier was not in attendance. City Secretary Charlotte Smith was present to take the minutes of the meeting. Mayor Vera Craig led the meeting with a prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

REGULAR MEETING (7:00 P.M.)

#5. Sign in Sheet and Resident Comments

G. A. Palmer – resigned Chief of Police – Mr. Palmer greeted Mayor and Council. Mr. Palmer stated his expressions were only his opinion and it may not be reality or other reality just something he has heard or learned. Mr. Palmer introduced himself to those who may not know him. He stated he left because his professional relationship with key employees had deteriorated to the point where it caused a disruption to the service rendered to the City of Woodbranch. He felt he was a target for slanderous lies and rumors to damage his reputation. He again stated it was his opinion. He stated he could assure the tax payers of the City he never used tax dollars in a wasteful manner. He assured the citizens he never took extended lunch breaks that would damage the reputation of the City. He stated it was a fantasy statement designed to divide and excite. He stated he welcomed the valued criticism such was given by the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem recently involving a staff issue and stated it was a valued experience. He stated, using police officers to undermine the Chief of Police is poison to a small city. He stated its poison to any small agency. He stated he came to Woodbranch with the hope the City would try something new and different and it was not to be the case. He stated he came in mid -February as the only officer. He stated he quickly hired 2 officers and 2 reserve officers. He stated he has passed multiple State audits and began to gather bids for body equipment to bring the department to the 21st century. He stated the agency has a great social media presence and they were starting to grow. He stated the agency had responded, and initiated, over 1000 cases since February and made numerous arrests. He stated the agency was quickly gaining respect from nearby law enforcement agencies. He stated all he asked was that he get a few months to try something different and new. He stated he felt that wasn't given to him and he simply didn't have enough time. He stated, in summation, he did the best he could with the resources available to him. He stated had he had this to do over again he thinks he would have solidified some other type of agreement with this Council. He stated in this current form he can not continue to be employed here and thanked everyone.

No other names appeared on the sign in sheet.

#19. Debbie Kirkham, Weaver and Tidwell, LLP – Annual audit review FYE2018

Debbie Young presented Mayor and Council with the annual audit review for the fiscal year ending 2018.

#6. CONSENT AGENDA

#7. Approve Minutes from the May 23, 2019 – Regular Meeting

Copies of the minutes are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#8. Approve Financial Statement General Fund – May 2019

Copies of this statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#9. Approve Financial Statement Water & Sewer Fund – May 2019

Copies of this statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#10. Approve Financial Statement Debt Service – May 2019

Copies of this statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#11. Approve Bills for the General Fund – June 2019

Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#12. Approve Bills for the Water & Sewer Fund – June 2019

Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#13. Approve Bills for the Debt Service Fund – June 2019

Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#14. Approve the Ground Storage Progress Report – May 2019

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#15. Approve the Court Activity Report – May 2019

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#16. Approve the Police Activity Report – May 2019

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#17. Road & Ditch, Bureau Veritas & Storm Water Management Report – May 2019

Copies of these reports are on file in the City Secretary's office.

The motion to approve items 7 through 17 was made by Councilman Clay Dean. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brent Purser motion carried.

#18. Approve Operator's Report – May 2019

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office. The motion to approve the report, as submitted, was made by Councilman Brent Purser. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mark Kroll, motion carried.

#19. Debbie Kirkham, Weaver and Tidwell, LLP – Annual audit review FYE2018

This item was moved up to before the consent agenda item.

#20. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on the adoption of the proposed drought contingency and water conservation plans

The motion to adopt the proposed plans was made by Councilman Mark Kroll. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beard, motion carried. Councilman Brent Purser and Councilman Clay Dean abstained.

#21. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on a request for a variance to Ordinance 206, Section VII – regarding maximum fence height requirements, for Parcell residence at 19 North Linnwood

The motion to approve the variance was made by Councilman Clay Dean. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brent Purser, motion carried.

#22. Consider and/or take possible action on waiving the requirement to resubmit the preliminary plat for Lilliput Farms Subdivision for reapproval on the basis that it was previously approved and the final plat of Section 2 follows the intent of the approved preliminary plat.

The motion to waive the requirement to resubmit a preliminary plat for Lilliput Farms, and approve the final plat for Section 2 without financial restrictions, was made by Councilman Clay Dean. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brent Purser, motion carried.

#23. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on allowing the City Engineer to obtain a dedicated drainage easement in Woodway Forest

No action was taken on this item.

#24. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on the proposal submitted by Crown Castle regarding an easement agreement

The motion to reject the proposal was made by Councilman Clay Dean. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beard, motion carried.

#25. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on the adoption of Ordinance 281-2019 – an ordinance of the City of Woodbranch Village, Texas (“City”), providing for rules and regulations regarding the discharge of firearms within the city limits; providing for a penalty; providing for severability; and providing an effective date

The motion to approve the ordinance, excluding and including some language in Section 2 – Discharge of weapons and exceptions, was made by Councilman Clay Dean. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mark Kroll, motion carried.

#26. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on how to proceed with 31 Woodbranch Drive for excessive water usage, not being connected to water since January 2019 and illegal sewer usage - (Councilman Clay Dean)

The motion to disconnect the sewer, after proper notification, was made by Councilman Brent Purser. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mark Kroll, motion carried.

#27. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on nuisance and abatement enforcement (Councilman Clay Dean)

No action was taken on this item.

#28. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on the construction of a new storage building at City Hall – (Councilman Clay Dean)

The motion to approve the bid submitted was made by Councilman Larry Beard. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mark Kroll, motion carried.

#29. Item of Community Interest – (Hear announcements concerning items of community interest from the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City staff for which no action will be discussed or taken.)

Councilman Clay Dean stated he did not know where this came from as far as working in an environment where Council doesn't support, or tries to circumvent, the police department. He stated it was not even on the radar anywhere. He stated he has seen the total opposite from this Council. He stated he has seen total support from Council and have given them everything they have asked for. He stated he appreciated the guys that are here now. He asked the Council continue to support them and the Mayor to as well. He stated he would like to see us move forward and not just lay down because we got knocked down. He stated we are going to go forward and make it work somehow. He stated he wanted the police department to know that he appreciated what they've done. He stated he didn't know the ins and outs of everything going on, but that he knew a little bit. He stated again he does appreciate what they are doing and hoped they continued to do it. He asked that they just focus on their job and not on everything else that is going around. He told them to just keep doing what they are doing.

Mayor Vera Craig referenced the signage at the entrance to city hall and mentioned the election was coming up. She encouraged citizens to apply for terms expiring in positions Mayor, Council Position 1 and Council Position 3.

No other announcements were made.

#30. Closed Executive Session in Accordance with the Open Meetings Act TEX. GOV'T CODE 551.074 – To discuss personnel matters – to discuss the duties of the police department - to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline and or dismissal of a public officer or employee

Council went in to closed session at 8:24 p.m.

#31. Reconvene and take possible action

Council reconvened in to open session at 9:37 p.m.

The motion to accept the letter of resignation, submitted by Chief G.A. Palmer, was made by Councilman Brent Purser. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beard, motion carried.

The motion to appoint the Mayor Vera Craig as Chief Administrator for the police department was made by Councilman Mark Kroll. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beard, motion carried. Councilman Brent Purser and Councilman Clay Dean abstained.

#32. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. was made by Councilman Mark Kroll. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beard, motion carried.