



City of Hitchcock

Newsletter August 2022



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

Join the team! We are looking for passionate individuals to join our team. Voice your opinion, learn city government, get involved with your community and make a difference. We are currently seeking volunteers for the new school year. Ages 14 to 19 are encouraged to join.

Information and applications can be found at City Hall, online at www.cityofhitchcock.org, or contact Stacey Baker at (409) 986-5591.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Serving on a City board or commission is an excellent way to serve your community. The City is currently accepting applications for the Parks and Recreation Board, Building Standards Commission, Board of Adjustments and the Disaster Assessment Team.

If you are interested in serving on one of these, please complete the on-line application at and return to the City Hall or email to the City Secretary at rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org.

You may attach your resume and any additional material you would like considered with your application.

[https://cms9files.revize.com/hitchcocktx/document_center/City%](https://cms9files.revize.com/hitchcocktx/document_center/City%20Secretary)

STATE OF TEXAS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REGISTRY (STEAR)

The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.



Who should register? People with disabilities, medically fragile, people with functional needs such as limited mobility, communication barriers, people who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event, require personal care assistance, and people who require transportation assistance.

How do I register?



Register online at Stear.tdem.texas.gov



Call 2-1-1 or use your video phone relay system

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DATES TO REMEMBER

8/15/2022 City Council Meeting 6:00pm.

8/23/2022 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting 6:00pm.

9/5/2022 City Offices will be closed for the Labor Day Holiday

The Importance of City Zoning

What is zoning? Zoning is arguably one of the most important functions of local government. Zoning is the division of a city into districts that permit compatible land uses, such as residential, commercial, industrial, or agriculture.



Zoning authority empowers a city to protect residential neighborhoods, promote economic development and restrict hazardous land uses to appropriate areas of the city. It is used to lessen street congestion; promote safety from fires and dangers; promote health; provide adequate light and air; prevent overcrowding of land; and facilitate the provision of adequate transportation, utilities, schools, parks, and other public facilities.

How does zoning occur? Chapter 211 Of the Texas Local Government Code contains many procedural requirements that must be followed when a city zones property, including strict notice and hearing provisions. The requirements ensure that city and neighborhood residents have a strong voice anytime a zoning change is considered. In addition, Chapter 211 provides for the creation of a planning and zoning commission to make recommendations on the adoption of the original regulations, as well as to hear proposed amendments. Also, a board of adjustment has been appointed to hear requests for variances from the regulations.

Why is there zoning? Zoning authority is often demanded by the residents of cities. Citizens, acting through neighborhood and preservation groups, generally support it wholeheartedly because zoning minimizes conflicts between land uses and maintains property values. “For example, assume a beautiful home on a half-acre lot has just been built. Six months after construction and move-in, the property owner next door decides to put in a restaurant. This means parking problems and late-night noise. Without a zoning ordinance, there may be nothing to prohibit the adjacent landowner from building the restaurant or a manufacturing facility.

Who decides zoning? The same zoning ordinance that protects property from what occurs next door also limits the development of property. This sometimes creates a conflict that is resolved through a local process. Because it is dependent on knowledge of local conditions and the needs of individual communities, the power to zone is best exercised by local officials – the level of government that is closest to the people. For example, most would agree that a person from a small town in the Panhandle cannot possibly know what type of zoning is best for a coastal city.

Why zoning matters. A 2008 survey found that three main things that “attached” people to their communities were: (1) social offerings, such as entertainment venues and places to meet; (2) openness (how welcoming a place is); and (3) the area’s aesthetics (physical beauty and green spaces). Zoning facilitates each of those attributes by working to create and maintain healthy, attractive, livable, and prosperous communities.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO APPLY FOR A BUILDING PERMIT?

Our city has a professionally certified inspector that ensures your construction project will meet the safety requirements established by code. Having a building permit comes with a multitude of benefits. Permit inspections help protect your family and future owners by ensuring the project is done safely and correctly. One of the most valuable steps in the permitting process is having the work looked at by our city inspector who knows how it should be completed. If you are doing the work yourself, then it is another set of eyes checking your project out so you can rest assured that the work being done is up to code. If you are hiring a contractor to do the work, having it inspected reassures you that the work is meeting the safety requirements established in building codes and corners are not being cut.

Without a permit, you may run into some troubles. First, a red tag can be placed to stop and cease work with fines. Also, you are likely to run into difficulties if you ever look to sell your house and work was done on it without a permit. For instance, you may be instructed to tear down and redo the work (this time with a permit), which will cost much more as a result. Another issue you could run into is damage to your home or business due to the work that was done without a permit. More often than not, your insurance will decline to cover the damage. Thus, it is in your best interest to obtain a permit at the start of your project.

Code Enforcement and our City Inspector work as a team. Our objective and goal is the safety and welfare for all of our residents. Please don’t hesitate to call for any questions you may have (409)986-5591.

KEEPING COOL IN AUGUST

In recent years excessive heat has caused more deaths than all other weather events, including floods.

A heat wave is a prolonged period of excessive heat, generally 10 degrees or more above average, often combined with excessive humidity. You will likely hear weather forecasters use these terms when a heat wave is predicted in our area:

Excessive Heat Watch - Conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event to meet or exceed local Excessive Heat Warning criteria in the next 24 to 72 hours.

Heat Advisory - Heat Index values are forecasting to meet locally defined advisory criteria for 1 to 2 days (daytime highs= 100-105° Fahrenheit).

Excessive Heat Warning - Heat Index values are forecasting to meet or exceed locally defined warning criteria for at least 2 days (daytime highs= 105-110° Fahrenheit).

Before the Heat

- Listen to local weather forecasts and stay aware of upcoming temperature changes.
- Be aware of both the temperature and the heat index. The heat index is the temperature the body feels when the effects of heat and humidity are combined.
- Discuss heat safety precautions with members of your household. Have a plan for wherever you spend time— home, work and school—and prepare for power outages.
- Have your air conditioner inspected annually to ensure proper working order.
- Check the contents of your emergency disaster kit in case a power outage occurs.
- Know those in your neighborhood who are elderly, young, or sick. They are more likely to become victims of excessive heat and may need help.
- If you do not have air conditioning, choose places you could go to for relief from the heat during the warmest part of the day.
- Ensure that your animals' needs for water and shade are met.

Call 811 Before You Dig

Remember to call before you begin any project requiring digging. Contact 811 at least two (2) working days before you begin excavation. They will need to know what is being done, as well as all necessary instructions to make sure the right area gets marked. You will be given a reference number that serves as proof of your call. They will also keep a complete record of your call to verify your compliance with the law.

Facility operators will mark their underground lines, as they deem necessary, and you will be able to work safely without delay. The City of Hitchcock Utility Department will locate your city water and sewer lines from the meter to the street.

Remember, know what's below and call before you dig. If you have any questions, call the Utility Department at (409) 986-5591 or visit www.texas811.org.



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Inside the home

- ◆ Never use any more water than necessary to complete a task.
- ◆ Fix leaks on faucets, sinks and toilets.
- ◆ Take short showers instead of baths.
- ◆ Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- ◆ Install low-flow showerheads and toilets.
- ◆ Keep cold beverages in the refrigerator and use ice only when needed.
- ◆ Keep a container of cold water in the refrigerator instead of waiting for water to cool from faucet.
- ◆ Fill sink half-way to rinse vegetables and fruit instead of rinsing one at a time under running water.
- ◆ Wash dishes by hand instead of using a dishwasher (fill one side of sink with soapy water for washing and the other with clear water for rinsing).
- ◆ If using a dishwasher, make sure you have a full load.
- ◆ When washing clothes, make sure you have a full load; if not, select the correct water level.
- ◆ When cleaning or emptying a fish tank, use the old water to water plants or on the lawn.

Outside the Home

- ◆ Water lawn only when needed.
- ◆ Water early in the morning or late at night.
- ◆ Never water when it is windy; this causes water to evaporate and dry quicker.
- ◆ Use drip irrigation for shrubs and flower beds.
- ◆ Use mulch around trees, plants and gardens to hold in moisture.
- ◆ When watering; set a timer as a reminder, this saves from over

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITO BITES

Mosquitos spread Zika and other viruses.



DAYTIME IS THE MOST DANGEROUS

Mosquitoes that spread Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night



USE INSECT REPELLENT

IT WORKS!

Look for the following active ingredients:
DEET/PICARIDIN/
IR3535/OIL OF LEMON/
EUCALYPTUS
PARA-METHANE-DIOL



WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHES

Mosquitoes that spread Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night



MOSQUITO PROOF YOUR HOME

Use screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning when available. Keep mosquitoes from laying eggs near standing water

HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
CHRIS ARMACOST	MAYOR	mayor@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 519-9646
MARY COMBS DEMBY	CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 1	district1@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 502-0424
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MIGUEL DELGADO	WWTP OPERATOR	mdelgado@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
DARRON RAY	FIRE MARSHAL	fire@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(800) 842-5622
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE	customerservice@ameriwaste.net	(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP			(409) 795-7595
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409) 986-5559
STREET LIGHT OUTAGES			(800) 332-7143
TX DOT DITCH MAINTENANCE FM 2004, HWY 6, and FM 519 (Main St.).			(409) 978-2551