



**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
HITCHCOCK CITY COMMISSION
HITCHCOCK CITY HALL
7423 HIGHWAY 6, HITCHCOCK, TEXAS
OCTOBER 7, 2020, 6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Randy Stricklind called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Members Present:

Mayor Randy Stricklind

Commissioner Mary Combs Demby

Commissioner Chris Armacost

Commissioner Wayne Newton

Commissioner Mark Cook

Marie Gelles, City Administrator

Nicholle Andrus, City Secretary

Others Present: Leroy Thomas, Public Works Superintendent; Wilmon Smith, Police Chief

2. Citizen Comments:

Monica Cantrell expressed concerns regarding the Hitchcock PD and dispatch going through Galveston County. She would like more support for our PD and bring back dispatch to keep all in the PD local. She would like to see more funding for the PD to hire more officers and make sure they have all equipment needed. Ms. Cantrell complemented the City and the HEDC on the hard work that has been done on improvements to make Hitchcock a more desirable community to attract new businesses and residential growth. Ms. Cantrell expressed her support of all Propositions in the upcoming election except for Proposition E. She also discussed the issue with needing lines painted down Neville Street to mark the street better for children walking to and from school.

Sam Collins III spoke asking for the City to review the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Collins expressed his support for the PD and would like more funding for increased pay, more officers and return dispatch to Hitchcock. He also supports all Propositions including Proposition E and feels the changes are necessary and needed for the City to continue to improve and grow.

Clay Burton spoke in support of the PD and moving dispatch back to Hitchcock. Mr. Burton would like to see more support for the PD and the wonderful things they do to help the citizens. He feels the City needs more positive energy and would like to see more murals on the sides of buildings and more community support. Mr. Burton feels there is too much negativity with comments on social media and the community needs to be more supportive with changes that are helping the City grow.

Tammi Barreras would also like to see Neville Road clearly marked for the children going to and from school. Ms. Barreras also spoke about 2nd Street not being graded and how there

are potholes causing issues and there is no gravel in the road.

Ana Dellinger owner of Legacy Collision is concerned with the changes in the Police Department. Being a business owner, she is concerned with decreased patrols and officers to detour crime. Ms. Dellinger would like more support for the PD and a higher budget for officers.

Brittany Buckley has been a resident in Hitchcock for 6 years and loves raising her family here. She is happy with the positive changes in the City and would like more support for the PD for increase in pay. She suggested to add a line in the water bill for the PD with the library and ambulance so residents and business owners can contribute to help with funding.

Vijay with Lazy Days RV Park would like to see more support for the PD. He supports adding more officers for patrol and bringing dispatch back to the City. He has been dealing with some crimes committed at the RV Park and said the City needs more officers to help. He expressed that the City needs to find a way to raise more money to support the PD and hire more officers and increase pay.

PLEASE NOTE: Public comments and matters from the floor are limited to 3 minutes in length. If you would like to request to speak, please do so in advance of the meeting by filling out a Request to Address Commission form. All in attendance are required to remove hats and/or sunglasses (dark glasses) during meetings and to also silence all cell phones and electronic devices.

Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than to individual commissioners or staff. Speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes to speak. Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane, or slanderous remarks will be given a warning before losing the privilege to speak or may be removed from the room.

Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells, and similar demonstrations/distractions will not be permitted. No placards, banners or signs will be permitted in the Chambers or in any room in which the Commission is meeting. In accordance with the Texas State Open Meetings Act, the City Commission is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda.

As authorized by Section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, the Presiding Officer may direct a City Official to make a statement of specific factual information in response to an inquiry made by a member of the public or the City Commission or a recitation of existing policy in response.

Items for Individual Consideration:

- 3. Discussion and appropriate action approving a Resolution authorizing the submission of a Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Harvey HUD MID application to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to act as the City's Executive Officers and Authorized Representatives in all matters pertaining to the City's participation CDBG-MIT Program.**

Marie Gelles introduced Rick Vourque with SPI Engineering. He discussed updates needed with the Wastewater Treatment Plant and could be included in the proposed grant and answered questions from the Commission. Leroy Thomas, Public Works Superintendent, was also present to answer questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Wayne Newton made the motion to approve the Resolution authorizing submission of a Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDGG-MIT) Harvey HUD MID application to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). Commissioner Chris Armacost seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Discussion and appropriate action regarding the approval of the City of Hitchcock Procurement Policies and Procedures for Federal Grants.

Marie Gelles recommends approval of the Procurement Policies and Procedures for Federal Grants and introduced Sylvia Davila with Grant Works to answer any questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Chris Armacost made a motion to approve the Procurement Policies and Procedures for Federal Grants. Commissioner Mary Combs Demby seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Discussion and appropriate action regarding the City's hosting of a Veterans Day Celebration events to honor local veterans.

The Mayor recognized Council member Fidencio Leija with the City of Santa Fe. Mr. Leija thanked the Mayor for allowing the City of Hitchcock to host the annual Veterans Day Celebration to honor all Veterans. He discussed the events planned for the celebration and would like to make it a very special day for all who attend. Mr. Leija would like to add a fireworks show that would cost around \$30,000 and stated the City of Santa Fe would give \$15,000 toward the cost. He asked the Commission for support and to donate the other \$15,000 needed and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Wayne Newton made a motion to approve the City of Hitchcock hosting a Veterans Day Celebration. Commissioner Mary Combs Demby seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Discussion and appropriate action on a veterans' parking sign program.

Fidencio Leija discussed the veterans' parking sign program and answered questions from the Commission. The program would install special parking signs at businesses who wish to participate for Veteran Parking Only.

Commissioner Mark Cook made a motion to approve the veterans' parking sign program for the City of Hitchcock. Commissioner Wayne Newton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Discussion and appropriate action accepting the donation of a 2009 Champion outboard boat to the City of Hitchcock.

Police Chief Wilmon Smith discussed the donation of the boat and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Mark Cook made a motion to accept the donation of the 2009 Champion boat to the City of Hitchcock. Commissioner Wayne Newton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Session:

- 8. Executive Session: Adjournment to Executive Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1) (A) to consult with the City Attorney to seek his advice on contemplated litigation and, Section 551.074 (a) (1) Personnel Matters.**

The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 7:08 p.m.

- 9. Reconvene into Open Session.**

The Commission reconvened into Open Session at 7:31 p.m.

- 10. Consider possible action or give direction on items legally discussed in Executive Session.**

There was no action taken during Executive Session.

- 11. Adjourn.**

Commissioner Wayne Newton made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mark Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Randy Strickland, Mayor

Ruth Ann Sorrell, Assistant City Secretary