



City of Hitchcock

Newsletter October 2020

HITCHCOCK VOTERS TO DECIDE ON SIX CITY CHARTER PROPOSITIONS

In April 2019, former Mayor Dorothy Childress appointed a citizen charter review committee. Serving on the Charter Review Committee were Dorothy Childress, Ena Hughes, Johnnie Anderson, Henry Coger, Mary Demby, Ronnie Meier, Gary Riley, Harry Robinson, Bobbie Tarpey, Commissioner Chris Armacost, and Mayor Randy Strickland as an ex-officio member. A consultant, who is an expert in city charters and Texas State laws with respect to city charters, was selected to work with the City Charter Review Committee.

The Committee was tasked with conducting a comprehensive review of the current charter and to make recommendations to the City Commission for appropriate changes to the charter. The committee held its first organizational meeting on September 30, 2019. On February 13, 2020, the proposed amendments to the charter were presented to the City Commission and, a special election was called to place the six (6) propositions on the November 3, 2020 ballot for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters to decide whether the Charter of the City of Hitchcock should be amended. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the City if the amendments are approved.

Cities in Texas are divided into two basic classes: home rule and general law. General law cities structure and power are defined by state statute. Home rule cities are defined by the charter that is adopted by the citizens of that city.

The City of Hitchcock is a home-rule municipality governed by its City Charter. The City Charter was adopted in 1960 and subsequently amended in 1971 and 1995. The City Charter is the basic governing authority of the City. The Charter determines the form of municipal government, the composition and power of the governing body, and establishes the legal framework for the city to function. Periodic reviews of the Charter are conducted to ensure compliance with state law and the Texas State Constitution. In 1974, the City of Hitchcock City Commission created the Office of the City Administrator by Ordinance to administer the day-to day affairs of the City based on the policy direction of the City Council.

To review a copy of the current City Charter and the proposed propositions on the **November 3, 2020** ballot visit the City's website at www.cityofhitchcock.org and click on the Charter Review button. **Please take time to review and educate yourself about the proposed amendments before voting!**

There are six (6) Proposed Propositions.

Proposition A

An amendment to the City's home rule charter amending by deletion or revision those sections which are unnecessary to the Charter and to create a more clear and simple home rule charter. Vote For or Against the Proposition.

- If adopted this Proposition will make non-substantive changes to the City Charter by removing sections which are duplicative to other Charter provisions and duplicative of state law. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the City if the amendment is approved.

Proposition B

An amendment to the City's home rule charter amending by deletion or revision those sections which are inconsistent with and in violation of State law. Vote For or Against the Proposition.

- If adopted this Proposition will remove those provisions from the City Charter which are not in compliance with State law. There is no fiscal impact to the City if the amendment is approved. (Continued on Pg. 2)

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DATES TO REMEMBER



- 10/19/2020 City Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 10/25/2020 Our Lady of Lourdes School Halloween Festival 11:00a.m.—6:00p.m.
10114 Hwy 6, Hitchcock, TX

CITY CHARTER PROPOSITIONS (CONT.)

Proposition C

An Amendment to the City's home rule charter regarding the City Budget to be adopted pursuant to State law. Vote For or Against the Proposition.

- Currently there are sections of the City Charter related to the budget process which are inconsistent with state law, are duplicative of state law and inconsistent with the City's current budget process. If adopted this amendment would require the City to comply with the state law when adopting its budget. There is no fiscal impact to the City if the amendment is approved.

Proposition D

An Amendment to the City's home rule charter authorizing the City to control public utilities and franchises consistent with State law. Vote For or Against the Proposition.

- Currently there are sections of the City Charter related to the public utilities and franchises which are inconsistent with state law or create additional requirements not found in state law. If adopted this Proposition would require the City to comply with state law when regulating and approving public utilities and franchises. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the City if the amendment is approved. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the City if the amendment is approved.

Proposition E

An Amendment to the City's home rule charter creating the position of City Manager. Vote For or Against the Proposition.

- The City of Hitchcock City Council previously created the position of City Administrator by ordinance and the City Administrator currently administers the day-to-day operation of the City based on the policy direction of City Council. If adopted this Proposition would formalize the City's current way of administering the day-to-day operations of the City by placing the requirement to hire a City Administrator in the City Charter and changing the name from "City Administrator" to "City Manager". There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the City if the amendment is approved.

Proposition F

An amendment to the City's home rule charter providing for authority to remove municipal judges. Vote For or Against the Proposition.

- Currently the City of Hitchcock does not have a process for removing a municipal judge. If approved this Proposition would provide for a process to remove a municipal judge from office. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the City if the amendment is approved.

This article is provided for informational purposes only, and by law, the City of Hitchcock cannot and does not take a position either in favor of or against this Election issue. Don't forget to vote on the ballot issue concerning the Amendments to the Home Rule Charter.

Early voting starts Tuesday, October 13, 2020 through October 30, 2020. Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

ALSO ON THE HITCHCOCK BALLOT ARE TWO COMMISSIONER RACES

City of Hitchcock Commissioner District 3 (Vote for one candidate):

Tammi Barreras
Darrell Hunter
Wayne Newton

City of Hitchcock Commissioner District 4 (Vote for one candidate):

Armond W. Hurd
Andre Perkins
Lucy Dieringer

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF HITCHCOCK

TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-MITIGATION (CDBG-MIT)

The City of Hitchcock will submit a CDBG-MIT application for \$3,598,615 for citywide improvements to the wastewater treatment and collection system related to declared disaster events to the General Land Office (GLO) CDBG-MIT Program. Applications will be available for review on and after October 5th at the City Hall at 7423 Hwy 6 Hitchcock, TX 77563 during regular business hours.

HURRICANE HARVEY GROUP FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY TO EXPIRE OCTOBER 24, 2020

Texas General Land Office is reminding Texans who received federal assistance following Hurricane Harvey that Group Flood Insurance Policy (GFIP) certificates are set to expire on Oct. 24, 2020. In order to remain compliant, a new flood insurance policy must be purchased by Nov. 23, 2020. GFIP offers flood insurance coverage for three years after which survivors are required to obtain and maintain flood insurance for the affected residence. Following Hurricane Harvey, 6,690 GFIPs were issued across impacted communities. As this assistance is set to expire soon, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its National Flood Insurance Program are urging residents to renew or secure flood insurance to prepare for the next storm.

**GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION
EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

October 13, 2020—October 16, 2020 (8:00am—5:00pm)
October 19, 2020—October 23, 2020 (8:00am—5:00pm)
October 24, 2020 (7:00am—7:00pm)
October 25, 2020 (1:00pm—6:00pm)
October 26, 2020—October 30, 2020 (7:00am—7:00pm)

MUD 12 Building
(2nd Floor)
2929 Hwy 6
Hitchcock, TX 77563

Hitchcock City Hall
7423 Hwy 6
Hitchcock, TX 77563

Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church
(Foyer)
6333 Hwy 6
Hitchcock, TX 77563

West County Building
11730 Hwy 6
Santa Fe, TX 77510

For a complete listing of all early voting an election day locations in Galveston County, visit www.galvestonvotes.org.

STATE PLANNING AWARD ANNOUNCED

The American Planning Association – Texas Chapter announced the 2020 Texas Planning Awards on Tuesday, October 1st. The Awards Selection Committee selected Hitchcock, TX: 2020 Comprehensive Plan: Rural Planning following Hurricane Harvey as the recipient of the Chapter’s 2020 Student Project Planning Award to Texas A&M University for their work on the City of Hitchcock 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Students across four universities worked with the City of Hitchcock to develop a Comprehensive Plan. The process included 10 public forums, community engagement meetings, and a high school workshop to develop the vision and goals. The community identified a roadmap toward increasing quality of life, fostering sustainable growth and development, and embracing our small-town charm. A total of 117 students across four universities participated in the project. The project was led by Texas A&M University within six courses, including three graduate urban planning, one graduate geography, one undergraduate urban and regional planning, and one undergraduate landscape architecture course as part of the Texas Target Communities program and the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan was presented to the City Commission in December 2019. A copy of the Plan may be found on the City’s website at www.cityofhitchcock.org. Their work demonstrates the importance of planning for the future of our community to create vibrant places that enriches people’s lives. Congratulations!

**VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION HOSTED
BY THE CITY OF HITCHCOCK**

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 8:00am—8:00pm
At the Galveston County Fair Grounds

Keynote Speaker & Entertainment: J.P. Lane,
US ARMY Purple Heart Recipient

**PRAYER BREAKFAST, VIETNAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY
LUNCHEON, VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR, PARADE &
AWARDS CEREMONY**

For more information & sponsorship:
Contact Chelsea Wick, Hitchcock Chamber of Commerce
(409)986-9224 email: hitchcockchamber@gmail.com

For more information visit
www.cityofhitchcock.org

**CITY OF HITCHCOCK STREET
REHABILITATION PROJECTS
BID AWARDED**

On September 10, 2020, bids were opened for the City of Hitchcock Street Rehabilitation Projects. Seven bids were received on the project. Lucas Construction submitted the lowest bid of \$1,111,111.11 with the City contributing \$269,598 toward the project. The projects consist of mill and overlay of Jackson, Neville and Bulldog Lane and base reconstruction for Hacker and Burns. Work is expected to start in late November 2020, weather permitting.



PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

- At least weekly, empty or remove trash cans, buckets, old tires, pots, plant saucers, and other containers that hold water.
- Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water.
- Remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs.
- Change water in pet dishes daily.
- Rinse and scrub vases and other indoor water containers weekly.
- Change water in wading pools and bird baths several times a week.
- Maintain backyard pools or hot tubs.
- Cover trash containers.
- Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand for several days.
- Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns.
- Treat front and back door areas of homes with residual insecticides if mosquitoes are abundant nearby.
- If mosquito problems persist, consider pesticide applications for vegetation around the home.

SAFETY & AWARENESS

First responders must simultaneously respond to a myriad of "crisis" situations. We all are aware that we must pull over to the side of the road when being approached by an emergency vehicle but the same applies to pedestrians. It is not only illegal but dangerous to block a road especially when first responders are responding to an emergency. Emergency vehicles routinely speed to the scene of tragedies, saving countless lives and helping many Americans get through the worst day of their life. Failure to clear the road could result in accidents or even death. So please help us keep everyone safe by remaining in your home and off the road during these emergency situations.



ILLEGAL DUMPING

Reminder: Do not place piles of debris (tree branches, large items, i.e., televisions/computer monitors/sofa's/chairs) on street side or near the ditches. If you cannot fit your trash in your trash cans please do not lay it out for pickup. AmeriWaste will only pick it up for an extra fee if an extra pickup is scheduled. We need to make certain the ditches are always clear of any trash, debris, etc. Absolutely no dumping allowed anywhere in the City unless it is a city wide clean up, in which that will be advertised and have a designated spot for drop off. You may notice signs have been placed around the city that advise no illegal dumping allowed. I am working with several City employees to clear these piles where people are currently dumping. The City is not responsible for these dump sites. However, we are having to clear these areas to prevent others from joining in on the dumping sites. It is illegal and violators will be prosecuted. This is a collective effort on all of us throughout the City. We are diligently working to clean up and your help is vital in keeping the City clean.

One a side note, Wednesday, September 30th 2020 @ 5pm we were able to catch two people illegally dumping under the bridge at HarborWalk. Thanks to a resident for seeing and saying something. This resulted in both being arrested and charged with Class B Misdemeanors! We will not tolerate this. If you see any dumping, please contact me at 409-795-1517. My phone is a 24hr 7 day a week operation. If you're more comfortable texting me information, I will gladly look into the complaint(s). You may remain anonymous! THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION!

Natalie Wilson, Environmental Crimes Investigator

HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
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MARK COOK	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4	district4@cityofhitchcock.org	(281)782-7656
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JANIE AVILA	PERMIT CLERK	javila@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
RUTH ANN SORRELL	MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK/ASSISTANT CITY SEC.	rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-9702
ANDY JENKINS	STREET SUPERVISOR	anthonyjenkins47@icloud.com	(409)986-5591
LEROY THOMAS	WATER/WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT	lthomas@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)761-0737
BILL GARVIN	WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR	billgarvin@yahoo.com	(409)986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(281) 337-4289
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE		(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP			(409)986-5559
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409)986-5559