

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF BEAR CREEK COMMISSIONERS August 15, 2023

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

2) Roll Call

Mayor Bohm, Commissioner Brushwood and Commissioner Brackenridge are present.

3) Citizens Comments will be taken from the audience on Non-Agenda related topics. No action may be taken by the City during Citizens Comments.

Kathryn Rosenbluth shares that The Postal Annex relocated within the same shopping center. The VOBC mailing address changed from suite 502 to 607. No change in key to access the store. At present all mail to be forwarded to 607. She'll begin the process of updating our mailing address.

Kathryn Rosenbluth mentioned she will be out of town 9/3/2023 to 9/17/2023. In her absence Commissioner Brushwood will check the VOBC mail.

Mark Bohm shares the Texas Governor Abbott issued a disaster proclamation with respect to Wildfires. Hays County is included in the disaster proclamation. With school back in session, the bus stop moved to Bear Creek Dr and South Madrone Trl, neighbors advising not to pull off the side of the road and keep your vehicle running. Its good that our community is aware of the high fire danger and taking precautions.

4) Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2022 Commissioners Meeting.

Table, minutes are not complete.

5) Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2023 Commissioners Meeting.

Mayor Bohm makes a motion to approve the June 20,2023 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Brushwood seconds. Motion is approved 2 Yea and 1 abstention.

6) Approval of Minutes from July 17, 2023 Commissioners Meeting

Table, minutes are not complete.

7) Commissioners Meeting Discussion and possible action in regard to reviewing 2022- 2023 budget and actual expenditures.

Council has a general discussion regarding reaching out to City Engineer and City attorney for invoices prior to end of fiscal year.

8) Consent Agenda- the following may be acted upon in one motion. A

Commissioner, Mayor or a Citizen may request items be pulled for separate discussion and/or action.

- a. Approve payment to Friendship Creekside Fellowship \$50.00 for 7/17/2023 VOBC Commissioners meeting in the Annex.**

b. Approve payment to The News Dispatch \$35.76 for posting Public Budget Hearing. Invoice dated 8/2/2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Brushwood makes a motion to approve the Consent Agenda correcting item 8.a to the month 8/15/2023 and not 7/17/2023. Mayor Bohm seconds. Motion is approved unanimously.

9)New Business

A) PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING:VOBC BUDGET 10/1/2023 – 9/30/2024.

Public Budget Hearing is opened. Council reviews the proposed budget and has a general discussion regarding proposed income and all expenses. Commissioner Brushwood recommends basing income off a proposed tax rate of \$0.0642 per \$100.00 valuation. Mayor Bohm calls for a brief break in the meeting to update the proposed budget with \$0.0642 tax rate. Mayor Bohm resumes the meeting and Council continues general discussion regarding the 2023 – 2024 proposed budget. At the end of 2022 -2023 fiscal year, we can update the contingency fund based on 9/30/2023 asset account balances. Budget Hearing closed.

B) Discussion and possible action to approve VOBC Budget 10/1/2023-9/30/2024 Ordinance #230815.001.

Mayor Bohm makes two correctios on Ordinance #230815.001. 1) “And Adoption The Annual Budget .” add the word ‘of’ . “And Adoption of The Annual Budget”. 2) in the same sentence “Village of Bear Creek for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. Correct to 2023 – 2024. “ Village of Bear Creek for the 2023 -2024 Fiscal Year”. Mayor Bohm makes a motion to approve VOBC Budget Ordinance #230815.001 as edited. Commissioner Brackenridge seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

C) Discussion regarding the VOBC 2023 proposed tax rate of \$0.0677 cents per \$100.00 valuation.

City Secretary mentions proposed tax rate discussion is for the purposes of Council agreeing on the tax rate, so that Hays County Tax Assessor can prepare the small unit taxing notice for publication. Notice will be published; the Tax Rate Ordinance will be on the September 2023 agenda for approval. Mayor Bohm refers to councils’ previous discussion and decision to base the 2023 -2024 budget off proposed tax rate of \$0.0642 per \$100.00 valuation. This amount is less than last year’s tax rate and \$0.0642 tax rate avoids a rollback petition. Council agrees to request small unit taxing notice of \$0.0642 tax rate.

10) Old Business

A) Discussion and possible action regarding the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) program and VOBC use of allocated funds. (Including but not limited to Broadband and Water)

Mayor Bohm mentions we've yet to receive an invoice for Engineering fees incurred for the water study. Chad Gilpin said we may not receive bill from WTCPUA, as they already had budgeted and planned on studying VOBC water lines, condition and efficiency. Our attorneys suggested we may want to consider having the community meeting to discuss the idea of Municipal Utility Districts. He's discussed the MUD idea with a handful of neighbors. So far nobody is enthusiastic about creating and managing MUD's. Conversations on the Bear Creek Oak Facebook page that neighbors are getting concerned for wells and water usage, drought conditions and enforcing water restrictions. WTCPUA has a water restriction sign up on Bear Creek Drive near FM1826.

Commissioner Brackenridge spoke to a neighbor getting pricing from WTCPUA to connect to the Bear Creek Drive water line. The council has a general discussion regarding individual costs. If VOBC road cut is required; VOBC must authorize the road cut prior to work performed.

In regards to Broadband, Commissioner Brackenridge is trying to locate the correct person to discuss this with at AT&T. He confirmed Googles does not have service in our area. Mayor Bohm states the VOBC already has Spectrum fiber. If you've got DSL, they also have a fiber option. If we're looking to improve DSL, perhaps we could help fund a substation. The Coronavirus money would go toward hardware to bring improved DSL to the Village, so residents would have better service.

City Secretary reminds Mayor Bohm of the August deadline to update sign on with SAM.gov.

B) Discussion and possible action regarding West Travis County Public Utility Agency (WTCPUA) water expansion model/study for VOBC, including but not limited to discussion of VOBC City Engineer cost estimates for implementation as well as various possible approaches to fund the project.

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C) Discussion and possible action regarding Village of Bear Creek roads and Right-of-Way.

Commissioner Brushwood spoke to Pete Garcia with Garcia Tree Trimming about our request for additional Right of Way tree trimming not to exceed \$5,000.00. Pete is requesting more detail on what we want done and wants to chip on site rather than haul off. The council has a

general discussion and agree: due to the volume of cuttings, Garcia can chip on site. They're not to chip directly into a ditch or the downside of a culvert. All Oaks must be cut and sealed per Oak Wilt guidelines. Large Oaks overhanging roadway should be cut back to 14' mark, and all road signage to be fully visible.

City Secretary reminds Council we recently received notification Jeffrey Raffaele resigned as VOBC ROW Mower. Commissioner Brushwood will reach out to Jose Landscaping and see if he would be interested.

D) Discussion and possible action regarding improving traffic safety at the two VOBC intersections FM1826 at N Madrone Trl and Bear Creek Dr and FM1826 and 45 W. Including but not limited to 1826 Neighborhood Coalition. (Commissioner Brushwood)

Mayor Bohm mentions he's invited to a TxDOT meeting with several community leaders. It's a closed meeting sometime in September. He's not sure what the focus of the meeting is other than FM1826; but does plan to attend. The Council has a general discussion regarding new Speed Limit Detection signs installed on FM1826 between Bear Creek Drive and FM 150.

E) Discussion and possible action regarding Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) 2023 Severe Winter Storm Mara -DR #4705..

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F) Discussion and possible action regarding Hays County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. (Commissioner Brushwood)

Commissioner Brushwood is preparing VOBC response and action plan for the 17 identified hazards. Once done he'll forward it to City Secretary and she can distribute to council.

G) Discussion and possible action regarding Covid-19 Hays County Disaster Order.

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**H) Discussion and possible action regarding VOBC records and fire recovery.
(Mayor Bohm)**

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I) Discussion and possible action regarding Village of Bear Creek web site maintenance.

The council has an open discussion regarding adding website links to the web site. Such as TDS Waste Wizard, Hays County water restrictions, etc. Mayor Bohm mentions a FEMA website where residents self-register and FEMA sends updates based on your zip code.

11) Announcements

A) Next VOBC Commissioners Meeting is Tuesday, September 19, 2023 7:00 PM at Friendship Creekside Fellowship, 14455 FM 1826, Austin, TX 78737.

12) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM

Submitted on October 15, 2023 by Kathryn Rosenbluth

Approved on _____

By *Kathryn Rosenbluth*
Kathryn Rosenbluth, City Secretary