

THE CITY OF WOODBRANCH VILLAGE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

The City of Woodbranch Village council met in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 26, 2019, in the City Hall Building at 58A Woodbranch Drive, New Caney, Texas, 77357. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Vera Craig. Roll call showed as being present Councilman Scott Essmeier, Councilman Larry Beard, Mayor Vera Craig, City Attorney Leonard Schneider and Councilman Clay Dean. Councilman Mark Kroll and Councilman Brent Purser were 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

No names appeared on the sign in sheet to discuss items on the agenda

Sign In Sheet to discuss items not on the agenda

Jon & Ashley Street – residents wishing to discuss flooding and drainage

Mr. & Mrs. Street reported they did not flood but people below them did and they need help. Mr. Street stated the elevation between Tavola and the City of Woodbranch Village is causing issues and the ditches need to be cleaned out because the water has no where to go. Mr. Street wanted to know where the tax money was going to clean out the ditches.

Leonard Schneider stated the rules on responding and the steps required

Mr. Street asked about the water going through Tavola like it should be going. He further stated he has pictures to indicate where they raised it up 10’.

Mayor Vera Craig stated she would reach out the Brian Gibson and the developer of Tavola.

Mrs. Street stated she spoke with Carlos and the engineers are contactors and they are taking short cuts and it is all backing up on the City of Woodbranch Village.

Carey Porter – resident wishing to discuss Linnwood Drive

Mrs. Porter wanted to talk about raising Linnwood Drive at its’ lowest point. She stated people get trapped at the end of the street and they can’t get out unless they move the day before. She stated 50’ feet of road could go 18” higher and it would help.

Bridgett Kelso – resident wishing to discuss flooding damage and drainage

Mrs. Kelso stated she lives on Tall Timbers and has never flooded but it has come close and now Tavola has been constructed and the drainage ditch at the end of their property stays clogged. The County does not maintain that so everyone’s water comes down her drainage ditch and its clogged up. There is a culvert further down Roman Forest Blvd that isn’t large enough. Her drainage ditch can’t handle it. There are no ditches on Tall Timbers so there is no place for the water to go. She stated she wants to be friends with Council and does not want to fight with the City and hopes the council lives here and cares about the City too. It appears Roman Forest is getting grants from previous floods and things are not getting done here and now her property value has gone down. She works from home and now is having to deal with contractors and is blessed because some people at the end of her street have lost everything. She stated if it wasn’t for the good people in the community that have made dinners and put things together, they wouldn’t be making it right now. And if people are not personally affected, she isn’t sure if they know that, but it does make an impact. She feels for the people that have been affected but had no clue what people go through and she wants council to understand that and try to help them as a community to get the grants and get the things they need to protect more than we can for those that aren’t in the flood plain. She stated a lot of it is an absolute drainage

problem from her drainage ditch going on to the boulevard. They called the City the last time for months and told them about cleaning out the ditch and they came the day before and that was the only reason they did not flood last time. But they don't come, nothing is maintained there and nothing is maintained in here. She stated everyone feels anger and frustrated because it is like a broken record. We need help. They have elected council to do that and they would like council to do that for them. Fight for them and she knows it is a lot of work but we are going to be left with nothing in this community and the City will be full of crime if we don't step up as a community and take care of things in our community. Annex somewhere else so another City can take care of us if y'all won't. And for those that flooded she feels for them.

#6. CONSENT AGENDA

#a. Approve Minutes from the August 29, 2019 – Special Meeting, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Copies of the minutes are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#b. Approve Minutes from the September 5, 2019 – Special Meeting and Workshop
Copies of the minutes are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#c. Approve Financial Statement General Fund – August 2019
Copies of this statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#d. Approve Financial Statement Water & Sewer Fund – August 2019
Copies of this statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#e. Approve Financial Statement Debt Service – August 2019
Copies of this statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#f. Approve Bills for the General Fund – September 2019
Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#g. Approve Bills for the Water & Sewer Fund – September 2019
Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#h. Approve Bills for the Debt Service Fund – September 2019
Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#i. Approve the Ground Storage Progress Report – August 2019
Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#j. Approve the Court Activity Report – August 2019
Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#k. Approve the Police Activity Report – August 2019
Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#l. Approve the Road & Ditch, Bureau Veritas & Storm Water Management Report – August 2019
Copies of these reports are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#m. Approve the Nuisance & Abatement Report – August 2019
Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

The motion to approve items a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l and m was made by Councilman Clay Dean. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beard, motion carried.

#7. Operator's Report – August 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 Scott Essmeier. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clay Dean, motion carried.

Mr. Dawson reported Tropical Storm Imelda damages as follows;

Magnolia lift station was submerged and will have electrical repairs and loss of lift pumps

Woodway Forest lift station had no damage

Sewer Treatment Plan lost the fence only

Water wells lost the fence only and we did not use the interconnect with Tavola

Mr. Dawson also reported having a request from 158 Linnwood for payment arrangements for outstanding services and notified Council they will be waiving disconnect fees and disconnection of service for those impacted by flood.

Councilman Clay Dean stated he would prefer all late and disconnect fees be waived for victims of flood.

Mayor Vera Craig told Mr. Dawson not to disconnect anyone's service until Council had a chance to discuss it at the next meeting of Council.

#8. Presentation by Michael Barrett on the perceived drainage issues stemming from the Lilliput Farms development and possible discussion by City Council

Mr. Barrett introduced the attorney representing the Sycamore Families Association. Attorney Rob Wiley stated he represented what is now known as the Sycamore Families Association a group that has concerns for the development in Lilliput Farms. He stated he has spoken with City Attorney Leonard Schneider, prior to the meeting, and has been told there are processes underway that will hopefully address their concerns. They want to evaluate whether or not these concerns will address the problems that they have. He wants to make sure council understood this group is very concerned about the long-term effect on the homes of this development that is now underway. He is hopeful we can work out a solution. He stated he had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Schmidt in the consultation with City Attorney Leonard Schneider and if that works out, that's fine. But it is very important to this group of families. Right now, there are 11 families, it's likely there will be more. It's very important to understand that these residents are going to continue to pursue their rights in this situation and that we will take whatever actions necessary, but is very hopeful we can work something out, but we will just have to wait and see whether or not that turns out to be the case. I am quite willing to respond to any questions the council may have and appreciates the opportunity to speak with Leonard Schneider before the meeting this evening so that we could get a dialogue going.

Leonard Schneider stated he did speak with Mr. Wiley, appreciates Mr. Wiley meeting with him. We did visit with them and show them public records and showed plans to address the situation and increase the grading that is going to go back there. Mr. Wiley wants to have his folks look at it to see if he agrees with our assessment of the drainage problem. He will then be in contact with Mr. Wiley and we will be working with him throughout this process and wanted to advise council of this and thanked Mr. Wiley for coming in.

Mayor Vera Craig asked people to reduce the chatter because we can't hear and to please refrain from speaking too much.

Leann Smith asked if, since this was a special meeting, could people sign up to speak and ask questions.

Mayor Vera Craig stated it was not a special called meeting but the regular meeting held the 4th Thursday of each month.

Councilman Clay Dean referred to HB 2840 allowing the public the right to speak.

City Attorney Leonard Schneider stated he wanted to clarify the statement made by Councilman Dean. Mr. Schneider stated that HB2840 states anybody in this room can speak on any agenda item that is on the list. So, if you wish to

speak to an agenda item, you have the right to do so by law. The Mayor will limit it to 3 minutes, which is also allowable by law. Regarding people that would like to speak on something that is not on the agenda we have a sign in sheet and it is up to the Mayor's discretion if she wants to allow someone to speak on something that is not on the agenda and if she asked the question.

Leann Smith stated she didn't see the sign in sheet.

Someone asked that the Council take in to consideration that this was the first time a lot of people have been to a meeting and the rules were not discussed and the sign in sheet was not available after a lot of people had gotten there.

Leonard Schneider said he understood the frustration, that the laws were just passed in September and cities were scrambling to make sure they have enough stuff out and the City Secretary was making copies.

Mayor Vera Craig asked how many folks needed to say something and asked for those who raised their hands to go to the podium and state their name.

The following were dictated verbatim, where possible, in an attempt to accurately convey what each individual wanted to say. Some places were inaudible and difficult to hear. These names did not appear on the sign in sheet.

Leann Smith – resident stated, “I have lived on Holly Lane for 22 years and never had creek water in my property until Hurricane Harvey and it was in my back yard about knee deep and I wonder when we will be the next to flood. The water just pours and I have video of the water running like a river off the property next to mine. For 17 years, ever since the house was built next to me, I have problems because Woodbranch made them build higher than my property. I have lost stuff from my childhood that was in our garage because we never had to worry about that before. We lose tools, it comes through the back, pushes up our fence and my plants float away, toys float away, my grandchildren's stuff. My husband spent 4 hours the past Sunday in a small section of our driveway scooping dirt and sand just from this last flood. It doesn't get in my home but I wonder when we will be next. My heart breaks for every one of those people. I sit and watch them leave and we are okay. But we are not okay. I have been fighting this mud, sand and water for 17 years and it doesn't have to be a hurricane or tropical depression/storm or anything. A good heavy rain will do it and I have anywhere from 1” to 14” of standing water in my garage and it is not fair that nothing is done. I have gone to the County and they tell me I have to come to the City. I was just about to come to the City before this happened. I have video I can show where the water runs like a river. The 5 years we've lived there, before, we never had an issue with sand, mud and water washing in to our property ruining everything we own until they built the house next to us and it is my understanding it is illegal to make someone change the flow of the land. And for someone to come in and build an entire acre higher up. I have sat and watched water going in to my neighbor's house and literally had tears in my eyes knowing they were getting flooded. But its going to get me the next time. I know it will.”

Juliette Lopez – resident stated, “I live at 232 Tall Timbers behind Leann Smith. Leann is right we do have video footage of water. We are displaced, we withdrew our son and moved to another location because our house is no longer habitable for our son or us. We were literally scrambling and what I don't understand is, and no one can get an answer, me and my husband have driven up and down the roads and nowhere are there ditches implemented that would perhaps subtain or hold some water or “inaudible” to a lower elevation. I understand Tavola may have faults or have what have you but as the City of Woodbranch we're your citizens and we ask you to do your due diligence and help us out. Property values are dropping. I had to run with my son outside. Kids are getting on fricking boats and what have you. I understand its' an issue but “in audible” to see my neighbors have to rebuild and they can't even sell their homes it makes me question about my home. Makes me question about my neighbor's home. Everybody in here that works their tail off to have a home and I'm pretty sure you have one too. God forbid this happens to you in your community. Or if this is your community. I'm not quite sure if it is or it isn't. I'm sorry if I sound frustrated but I am. I'm a mother and to grab my son the way I did. I felt like I was off Galveston instead of Houston. The way that thunderstorm came rushing in my home that is something that as a mother I feel like I have failed him. To see my neighbors scramble that are older and I didn't see anybody coming out there or my councilmen to say,”Hey, we're here, we're gonna help, we're gonna do something.” At least give us some normality to say you are there. We don't

see it and we don't feel and it frustrates us and makes us wonder if you guys care. And I need to know if y'all do because to grab my son and take him to another school is something I shouldn't have to do because number one this hasn't been claimed as a disaster, I know you guys have nothing to do with that. That is something a lot of us are having to deal with. Secondly, I have to go fight my property tax because what they wanted to give me was, to be frank, it was shit. And to lose it and to put the money we have invested ourselves is breaking our backs in order to clean out the ditches and what have you. My neighbors who are ill at the moment, or ill period, have to go themselves and clean it out. Where is all the money going to maintain the property? I see lawning and what have you expense but I don't see the things that are needed in the community much less seeing any lawns that is being taken care of. I think those things are tedious as to what's happening with depreciation and the values. Sooner or later it's going to be everybody. When? That is the question. They are going to have to grab their kid, grand kids or newborn or what have you and be displaced like I am. My son is displaced right now and he doesn't know what is happening. I don't know what to tell him why his stuff is all out of the house. I pray it is something you will never have to answer. It may not be a big deal to you but it is for my first year, my first home and I do love my community and this is the reason why I moved out here. I really love my community. Thank you."

John Kennedy – resident stated, "We live on Southwood. We live in the lowest part of Southwood. My house has flooded 3 times in the last 2 years. We bought a toy hauler in June it was in my driveway. It flooded, the house got flooded and my neighbor Kay had just moved in a week before the flood and she got flooded. The drainage ditch between the houses has concrete washing out underneath, it has massive sink holes and between the houses has massive sink holes. A few years ago, I had my shower redone and when they redid the drain, they noticed under the concrete was hollow. It took 6 - 5 gallon buckets of sand to fill it up. So, it's going underground out to the drainage. Who buys us out? I have flooded 4 times in 20 years. I understand that once the creek is full there is no where for the water to go. Another question I had is, we flooded 4 times in the last 20 years can anybody buy our house out? The government? The County? Who do you call or talk to about that? Insurance company keeps pay but there is nothing they can do about it. I love my community. I love my neighbors. I'm not losing everything again. All my cars and motorcycles and everything. Just got new furniture from May and it is back out at the curb again. I understand flood happens. I understand when the river is full it has no where to go and there is nothing you can do. It's just brown water that just sits there. But concerning our houses, I don't want that to happen again. I don't want to lose everything again. 4 times in 3 years. Who do you call? The County? FEMA? Who does that? Who comes and looks at it and evaluates it?"

Mayor Vera Craig stated it is her understanding that FEMA is the buyout people but it is a very tedious process and it takes time.

John Kennedy stated it took years from what he had heard.

Mayor Vera Craig stated yes sir it did for FEMA to buy him out.

JK "inaudible", everything comes down and it was white capping down the road coming this way and this way. Concrete behind my house is just washed out.

An audience member stated that she has seen that it is getting worse and worse for Mr. Kennedy's residence. It made her sick to see them carrying out their stuff again and it was really sad and she was very sorry for them.

Corey Langslay – resident stated, "I own 150 Linnwood. I also 149 & 148 Linnwood our house is at the corner one that has the horses and white donkey. This is the second time we got flooded. There is a sinkhole on Linnwood. Someone actually put an arrow and said "sink hole". Well that happens to also be one of the channels that washed someone's car away. I'm sorry for whoever lost their car in my pasture. They did get that pulled out and I'm sure his car was destroyed. We had 65" of water in the house at the most deepest part. At the most shallow it was 42". Um, that's more than a water abatement problem. That's everything is going through my yard. It goes through my yard and goes out my back yard and goes through Mike "inaudible" Cynthia's yard. It's got no proper way around to get down to the park. I know down at the park there are 2 old homes that were demolished a bazillion years ago. The foundations are probably still down there. I haven't been down there to look at them in a while. But you know there

is no coming back from this. You know if you raise our house 4'. 4' that doesn't abate the problem. We got 5'5" of water. If you look at where we are, you would need a ski jump to get in to our garage. Right? If I raise my garage up to 4' that is a considerable amount. So, no elevating the property folks. John and Ally, they got the same, Ronnie across the street he got the same. Everybody got pounded on this one. Ashley came by and helped us get the horses out and they got hit. I mean they've never gotten it this bad. Ever. They went through some serious flood waters to save my horses and I thank you very much. But it's not just a minimal problem anymore. I mean I'm wearing one quarter of my clothing. This is it, I went to Walmart and bought it. This is what I was stuck in when I was downtown at work Thursday night. There is no rebuilding. If the water is going to come back to my front door and wash out my back door why would I rebuild? I'm sorry for those folks that also lost a lot. I feel for you. I'm insured. I'm blessed. I mean we are really lucky. I'll be able to buy new stuff. But I can't move back in to the house. Because there is no moving back in to the house. I can't put my horses back there and have them get washed away. I buried 22 chickens on Friday morning. That was fun. Last time we washed away 3 small chicken coops. Super sturdy chicken coop didn't wash away this time. But it's just a disaster. I know FEMA is gonna claim. But I'm asking you guys, not right now, but later. Give me a piece of paper that says you won't be permitted until you elevate. Give me a piece of paper that says you have to elevate and have a permit from the City to do electrical. Give me a piece of paper that says you won't give me an electrical permit until I elevate the property. That I can take to my insurance company and make them pay. Because anything short of that it's going to be a hollow empty house on the corner and everybody is going to have to look at. It's not going to make the neighborhood look anymore valuable. We can't move back in. There is nothing we can move back in to. I mean it filled my windows up. Double paned windows. It filled the windows up. 65" inches folks. Everything in your house. I'm sorry, you guys have a good night."

Adrianna Casenave – resident stated, "I am sorry for my accent. My property had 6' of water. I'm lucky because I have a dry place. I have a home in Kingwood. It took me 8 hours to get here. I know a lot of people could not. Lot of people lost everything. I bought the property in 2007, my property goes to the creek. But the water didn't come from the creek. The water comes from farther. Doesn't matter. I think that what we are asking and I hope that you understand that. I lost pictures of my family. Those things are not replaceable "inaudible". I can pay to live in a different place. But I have the right to have my representative stand up for me. Today when you start your pray. And I understand you pray for all of us. But my heart hurts a little bit when I hear you asking the Lord to solve our problems when it should be City Council standing up for us. And say what you will do not what the Lord will do. Because we can do that personally. I don't want to be making you feel bad. But we can see, we care here, you are there you have your agenda. I didn't see you out there helping us. I didn't see anybody there helping neighbors. I didn't see on this agenda what should be discussed after what we just went through. I expect you to tell us, we got it. We know that its nature and it's a big rain but I think something can be done and it's not being done and we don't see it. I don't know how the other people feel. But we don't feel that you are supporting us. That you are shouting out, "Don't worry we are here for you." The thing is you represent us. I don't want to be confrontational and I don't want to blame you. But you need to understand you have these amount of people here today. Somebody need to stand up tell them we are doing everything. We are trying. Make us think you are there supporting us. We are meeting. Neighbors are meeting. Because we know it's not only nature. The inspectors are not there taking care of the tings they are supposed to do. We know there are a bunch of things that are wrong. "inaudible" But what I wanted to communicate is the desperation that we feel. That we are by ourselves. You have the idea, I have the idea and coming here today. I don't see you standing up saying we got it. We know we can not get a total solution and we respect that. We are not that, you know, naïve. But what are we doing? What are we supporting? Going after people with small violations and then when big disaster comes no one is coming. We have churches coming, we have neighbors coming, but I never saw any of your workers. Like I said I don't want to be confrontational and I know you have a lot on your plate but you need to understand our desperation and our pain. I think this is a waste of tax payer money. After what we went through this agenda doesn't make any sense. We were supposed to have a meeting where you answered us. I'm sorry. "inaudible"

Bruce Lybrand – resident stated, "I'm Bruce Lybrand I'm known in Lilliput Farms as the lowest spot in the entire subdivision. Because the developer who has been allowed to pile dirt and let it flood that back of that subdivision. Unfortunately, that is my back yard. I goT the call to come back from Florida because I got the call that my wife had water coming in the house and what should she do? I told her to go down to the fire department. Except no one is at

the fire department. If they aren't there to assist, where are they? They're assisting everybody else. They're trying. I understand the young lady says she doesn't want to be confrontational but I'm gonna be honest with you, I'm gonna be nothing but confrontational. This council has already gotten an example of that. I've been down time and time again, dealing with the EPA out of Dallas, they sent me to Austin to deal with the TCEQ because the water being discharged out the back of that dirt not only floods in to the subdivision we're in it brings silt and they have broken the law. I was referred to Houston. Houston referred me to the County. The County referred me back to here. And I'm getting ready to write another letter tomorrow because the same water, the same 80 photographs and 16 videos still show flowing off these stacks of dirt from the developer. And, I'm told by the engineer, in writing finally, that they made a mistake when they put the ditches in. The problem is they are not doing anything about it. They're dancing all over town with this. They want to divert it back to the pile then take it around the corner and then to a pond that at 2 a.m. when the subdivision flooded was full. I went out and shot pictures of phase 2 underwater. It couldn't take anymore water. But the engineering company claims that it's not their job. I missed the meeting the other day and I understood when Mr. Barrett came over to have a discussion, this is hearsay you can ask him yourself, that he was asked to leave the meeting because you were having a private meeting with the engineers and your engineer. Is Bill Daugette still your engineer?"

City Secretary Charlotte Smith stated Bill Daugette was not our engineer.

"Well, I was represented by him to be the guy I need to talk to, to get the storm drains straightened out."

City Secretary Charlotte Smith stated Bill Daugette was the stormwater management person for the City.

"Well someone signed off on this. I have a set of plans that was signed off on by the County, not the City. I'm gonna ask the question why not? And how can these projects move forward? Without the City's approval and I still don't have an answer. Does anybody on this city council know what the real process is to approve a subdivision and make sure the developer does his job? Because it's not just in Lilliput Farms, it's in every subdivision that's being built around this. I have the luxury of knowing a little bit about how this works because I've spent 20 years in Florida dealing with it on a little different level. I saw it first hand and how it works and I can tell you tis that right now and the dance they are doing from the engineering firm is a despicable. I don't hear this council raising a voice making them accountable. So, if you want to know what the future's gonna come from everything that is going on that's our subdivision and it's not going to go away because they're planning Phase 3. I have another question, is Phase 3 in the city limits or in the County? Because I'm told conflicting information. "

Mayor Vera Craig stated it was in the County.

"So, you all are not responsible at all for what goes on back there?"

Mayor Vera Craig stated Phase 1 and Phase 2 are in the city limits of Woodbranch.

"Okay is Phase 3 going to be annexed in to the City?"

Mayor Vera Craig stated, "no sir."

"Okay, then I have been lied to again by and the engineering firm, and the developer and the builder. You are not responsible for that, I can't blame you, but what I can blame you for is I have been going at this since the 7th of May. The house has taken on water twice and we keep being told by the engineer and the developer that they are going to fix it. The simple fix is, and I'm not an engineer, but you cut a pipe across the street and take the water down to the retention pond. And the response I get is "that costs too much money." This is about the money with the developer and the engineering firm. They don't want to do their job. They are trying to push water on all of the rest of us. The City needs to stand up and tell them they cannot come in to this community and dictate to you. And yes, there is a legal segment to this also, Mr. Attorney, and I do not want to violate the law by going out and modifying anything like I've been really tempted to do to divert the water to some place where it belongs. I've been told by my counsel, sit down and shut up, because I don't practice law in Texas. Get yourself a Texas attorney. That's the real answer. These

people sitting up here could do a lot more than what they are doing. Get up out of that chair and go confront these people. Are my 3 minutes up? "Inaudible."

Mr. Ulrich – resident stated, "We live at 234 Tall Timbers the last 21 years, never flooded until Harvey came. Now all the water comes down from my neighbor's up the hill. It will come down their back yard and ends in mine. It used to go in my back yard and would split and go in to Tall Timbers and backed up in to Mr. Greer's front yard and flooded his home. Now I found out, years later that my culvert, I have 2 culverts was illegal, it was a 12" culvert. I spent \$5,000.00 to put in a new culvert and new driveway which has only, well what it did was, I also put a swale so that I could split that water. One went to Tall Timbers and the other came around the curve. I live on the curve. And all it did was move it up to my house and goes over to the house you, (Scott Essmeier), used to live in. Because it couldn't get out, I go and clean out the culverts myself and I go down the street, And I am 75 years old and I go down the street and clean out under the street and the street behind us, Holly Street. It's not y'all's problem to clean that out it's more debris. Now I go and keep it cleaned out, I even clean out the neighbor's house next door and all the way down to the stop sign. Redwood & Maple. That's as far as I can go because the other guy can clean out his own. "inaudible". But the thing is the ditches I don't believe need dug out. Because you look at some of these ditches and half of them are full of dirt. You can go, like at mine, and dig 10' back and dig it down to where a whole row can go through. It made a big difference in mine when I put that 18" culvert in. But all it did was back it up "inaudible" now it goes past me and goes to my neighbor's house in the front of your house, (Scott Essmeier). Now, during the flood it was horrible. Mr. Greer's grandson and I went in to, what's his names house, and the water was up to here (points at chest) "inaudible" pig on top of a pontoon boat. We could not get back to Tall Timbers the water was rushing so bad. We had to get through the house. We could not get back. Anyway, my main reason for being up was during Harvey, 2 months later y'all said we had to put in new electrical. I need a list because I'm putting my house back together the way it was and I'm never moving back in to it. But I want to put it back right. And I want everything done right. And I love my home, I got a cover for my motor home and everything I ever wanted. My wife says we're not staying here anymore. I love the place. Absolutely love the place. Love our neighborhood. But I just can't stay. I would like a list of what I have to have. And what I have to do before I put my house together. By the way, I'm not putting it back together until AFTER hurricane season, The end of November.

Julie Lobue – resident stated, "We live at 88 White Oak. We've been here 27 years. We moved here at the end of 1991. I will try to make this very quick. What we need from you guys is to make this a priority. I think we need to go on a bigger scale because even if our ditches are cleaned out this amount of water has no where to go. I know that Tavola was low lying land with tons of trees. I know that when our creek fills it had a place to go that it longer has to go. It back us up. We've been here 27 years, this is my husband, and he says no more. I'm sorry. I love my home. We've been together since we were kids. We raised 4 kids here. And this is what I want to put in your mind. We were going to retire here. We were gonna die here. Because we love it. And we can't because what if Harvey comes again? This was just a flash flood. What if Harvey comes again? What if another hurricane comes? We can't keep doing this. This is our 3rd time. We did not flood in the 2 floods in 2016. But we did in Ike. We did in 94 and Harvey and now. We need you to do what you can do. Call the State. Get bigger help. We need to find out what's blocking our water from flowing and prevent this. Because what you're going to be left with if you don't is a "inaudible" neighborhood and that's not gonna do anybody any good. We've worked all our lives for a home that has zero value. Where's our return? We got to start over. I got a refund last year. I got \$500 back. Anyway, y'all need to make this a priority and do everything you can to save this community. You can't do it for us. But those that might flood next time if you don't help us. That's all I want to say.

#9. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on the continuation of pursuing the Commissioner, for assistance with drainage and street repair, or to outsource for outstanding projects (Vera Craig, Mayor)

Councilman Scott Essmeier made the motion to outsource for outstanding projects. Councilman Clay Dean stated he thought it was amazing that people come and say all these things but then most of them don't want to stay and listen to the item that was on the agenda for us to talk about. We know that there are some drainage issues and the Mayor and Council have been working on this since before he got here. The previous Commissioner never did anything. We are a very, very small City, with very, very limited funds. We lost 4 million worth of value property during Harvey. But we still have to maintain sewer, water and it is hard to do all this. We have no money. Okay? We are not Roman Forest. We don't have the highest tax rate and we can't do some of these things. But we are doing to do the very best

that we can take care of this and address this. We rode around, all day off and on and surveyed every house that flooded, we went through the subdivision and talked to people. For people to come up and say they don't know us and they didn't see us. I didn't see them either. That doesn't mean that I, or other council members, weren't doing anything. Because it's just not true. It's not facts. So, the facts are, we are gonna do something. We are gonna address this. We can't, you can't put in enough drainage to hold 33" of water. I'm sorry you can't. I personally had houses that got water in them that have never been flooded before. But I can't blame the drainage or anything. I know there are problems across the street. But we got to start somewhere. And we are going to do that. Scott brought it up even before the last flood at the last council meeting. That is the reason this is on the agenda. He wanted to get away from the County and let's start doing that. So, I do make a motion that we start outsourcing and find someone. We are not going to solve all the flood issues in the City and I'm not going to say we can. We can't. Those are State creeks. Those are State waterways. We have no right to go clean any creek out anywhere. They are not ours. But what we can do is check all the culverts, the ditches that need to be done and we can help alleviate some of that. We know where they are. We took pictures. I took pictures. Charlotte was out during the storm. I was out during the storm. Took me 4 hours to get to work and I had to drive 100 something miles to get back here to take pictures of all the accusations about the water in all these places. So, I have photographs to prove it. I've heard stuff. But I hadn't seen anything. City Secretary, Charlotte Smith stated she had taken pictures of Sweet Gum when asked by an audience member. Councilman Dean stated, "I don't know the streets. If you say where Mr. Barrett lives, I know where that is. She knows the street names better.

Mrs. Knox stated she had the City Inspector come to her house and tell her what they had planned and she said she did not like it at all.

Councilman Dean stated we needed to hear that input.

More unidentified audience members spoke and asked questions, mostly at the same time so it was difficult to identify who was talking and dictate.

The motion to outsource was made by Councilman Scott Essmeier. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clay Dean, motion carried.

#10. Consider and discuss the condemnation process for homes that flooded during Hurricane Harvey and have not been rehabilitated

There was no action taken on this item.

#11. Consider and discuss how to proceed with the permit fees for flood damaged properties

The motion to waive the City's portion of the fees was made by Councilman Scott Essmeier. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beard, motion carried.

#12. Closed Executive Session in Accordance with the Open Meetings Act TEX. GOV'T CODE 551.074 – To discuss personnel matters – to discuss the probation period of Officer Taylor Lisk and to interview Christopher A. Fowler, Sr. and Charles Kelly Horton as potential candidates for a Reserve Officer position and Louis Stevenson as a potential candidate for a Reserve Officer or Full Time Officer position

Council went in to closed session at 8:44 p.m.

(A) – to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline and or dismissal of a public officer or employee

#13. Reconvene and take possible action

Council reconvened in to open session at 9:25 p.m. Councilman Scott Essmeier made the to hire Mr. Fowler and Mr. Horton as Reserve Officers, contingent on a 6-month probation and to extend the probation period of Officer Taylor Lisk by 90 days. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beard, motion carried.

#14. 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.)

No announcements were made.

#15. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. was made by Councilman Scott Essmeier. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Beaird, motion carried.