

THE CITY OF WOODBRANCH VILLAGE
Regular Meeting
May 22,2025

The City of Woodbranch Village council met in a regular meeting at 6:00 P.M., Thursday, May 22, 2025, in the City Hall Building at 58A Woodbranch Drive, New Caney, Texas, 77357. The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Tyson. Roll call showed as being present Councilman Scottie Garner, Councilwoman Stacey Shipley, Councilman Kevin Johnson, City Administrator Charlotte Smith, Mayor Mike Tyson, Councilwoman Nancy Mulhern and Councilman James Mulkey. City Attorney Leonard Schneider was not in attendance. City Secretary Debra Wildblood was present to take minutes of the meeting. Councilwoman Mulhern led the meeting with a prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

REGULAR MEETING (6:00 P.M.)

The regular meeting was opened at 6:00 P.M.

#5. Sign In Sheet

Dillon Rogers
Shaunda Terrell

Mr. Rogers addressed Council. His comments were as follows:

“Good evening, Councilmembers, Mayor Tyson, fellow residents. My name is Dillon Rogers and I am a 6 year resident here in Woodbranch. I spoke before the Council on the 24th to raise concerns about transparency. Specifically, regarding availability for citizens to access Ordinances we are expected to follow. At the meeting I proposed a simple and cost-effective solution to publish the Ordinances with Google Drive. Mayor Tyson noted, he responded noting that there were legal requirements that might mandate that specific platforms like Municode be used for publication. I appreciated the feedback, I left feeling heard. It really motivated me to do more research of our City. First, I contacted several of these platforms to verify pricing. The estimates that Mayor Tyson provided were generally accurate. I understand the City’s hesitation to incur those costs. Second, I researched the legal landscape regarding online publications. I could not find any law requiring municipalities to use those specific platforms. I found the law allows but doesn’t mandate Cities to publish the ordinances online. I’m not a legal expert however. So therefore, as directed by Mayor Tyson, I reached out via email to our City Secretary, Administrator and Attorney April 29th for clarification and my question was as follows:

Could you please provide some clarification as to which laws would not allow the City to use Google Drive as a platform to publish updated Ordinances?

I received no response. I followed up on May 2nd, I received no response. It was yesterday that I called into the City Office. I spoke to a staff member in the office, who’s name that I will withhold, but I must share that the tone was beyond dismissive and condescending, something that I regularly get from this person. I was told that she didn’t have time to get an answer due to her other responsibilities. Noting specifically that she didn’t have time to prioritize an open records request, even though this isn’t an open records request. She did call back within an hour and I was told she had received a response from the City Attorney some time ago, but didn’t reply to me because the Attorney’s response didn’t mention Google Drive. Respectfully, I don’t get it. My question was extremely clear. I was ignored and then effectively scolded for calling and asking. This is unacceptable. I followed the exact process suggested by this council and in return I was met with silence and disrespect. That’s not transparency, that’s not accountability and its just not acceptable from a salaried employee serving the people of Woodbranch. I ask again, why am I being ignored for simply seeking clarity on how our laws are shared with us? Why are reasonable questions about transparency met with bureaucratic dismissiveness? This has got to be addressed tonight at this board meeting, or very soon at a special board meeting. Barring any legal objections from our City Attorney, which if I’m not mistaken isn’t present at this council meeting either. I’m calling on the Council to publish a publication Google Drive Folder to include the most updated version of each ordinance no later than the next council meeting. I’m not here to create conflict, I’m here to help, but that help requires communication, it requires respectful communication, and it requires some kind of follow through.

Shaunda Terrell:

Ms. Terrell requested a review and adjustment to a recent water bill showing over 82,000 gallons of water use. Ms. Terrell was put in contact with Michelle at H2O for assistance.

CONSENT AGENDA

#6. Approve Minutes from the April 24, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Copies of the minutes are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#7. Approve Financial Statement for General Funds – April 2025

Copies of the statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#8. Approve Financial Statement for Water and Sewer Fund – April 2025

Copies of the statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#9. Approve Financial Statement for Debt Service Fund – April 2025

Copies of the statement are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#10. Approve Bills General Fund – May 2025

Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#11. Approve Bills Water & Sewer Fund – May 2025

Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#12. Approve Bills Debt Service Fund – May 2025

Copies of the bills are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#13. Approve the Court Activity Report – April 2025

Copies of these reports are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#14. Approve the Road & Ditch and Storm Water Management Report – April 2025

Copies of these reports are on the file in the City Secretary's office.

#15. Approve the Permit Activity Report – April 2025

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#16. Approve the Nuisance and Abatement Activity Report – April 2025

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#17. Approve the City Administrator's Activity Report – April 2025

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

#18. Approve the City Engineer's Activity Report – April 2025

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office.

The motion to approve items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 was made by Councilman Garner. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion carried.

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER, DISCUSS, AMEND, ACTION, AND/OR APPROVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the Police Activity Report – April 2025

The report was given by Officer Brad Crandell.

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's Office. The motion to approve the Police Activity Report was made by Councilman Garner. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion carried.

Operator's Report – April 2025

The report was given by Creston Minter.

Copies of this report are on file in the City Secretary's office. The motion to Approve the Operator's Report was made by Councilman Garner. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion carried.

#19. Consider, discuss and/or take possible action on the bid submitted by Kentech, for the preventive maintenance of the City's generators located at City Hall and the water treatment plant. (Mike Tyson, Mayor)

After a brief discussion this item was tabled.

#20. Mark Smith – a resident requesting a variance to the deed restrictions for Section 4 that does not allow for an accessory building made out of hardi-board (Mike Tyson, Mayor)

No action was taken.

#21. Closed executive session in Accordance with the Open Meetings Act TEX GOV'T CODE 551.074 – to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline and or dismissal of a public officer or employee; Chief Andre Singleton

Council went into closed session at 6:25 P.M.

#22. Reconvene and take possible action

Council reconvened into open session at 6:55 P.M. No action was taken.

#23. Mayor's comments on infrastructure, city budget and grant opportunities

Mayor Tyson had no comments.

#24. 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

City Administrator Smith discussed the newly added City Administrator's report and asked if Council had any questions or suggestions on the report.

City Administrator Smith announced that the \$5 million grant has been finalized, now begins the work to secure a grant to match it.

City Administrator Smith attended the Mayor's Meeting on May 21, 2025. She spoke with Jean Mann who works for Judge Keough. Ms. Mann gave good insight about a grant writing program being put on in the Lake Conroe Chamber. The program is for 3 days and costs \$600. You can be placed on a list to get a sponsor.

#25. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made at 6:58 P.M. by Councilman Garner. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion carried.