

CITY OF STAGECOACH
CITY COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING
E.S. Williams City Center
16930 Boot Hill Road
Stagecoach, Texas 77355

JULY 18, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

State of Texas
County of Montgomery
City of Stagecoach

1. Mayor Pro Tem McGahen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. The roll call was taken with the following persons present (P), absent (A), or late arrival (LA):

Mayor:	Galen Mansee	(A)
Aldermen:	Sharon McClure	(P)
	Jim Cooley	(P)
	James Osteen	(P)
	Mark McGill	(P)
	Bill McGahen	(P)
Attorney:	Janice Baldwin	(P)
Secretary:	Brenda Rutt	(P)
Chief of Police:	Mike Wethington	(P)

3. The Invocation was given by City Attorney Janice Baldwin and the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag were said.
4. Persons desiring to appear before City Council: Resident Ann Konz addressed Council about fireworks being shot off for July 4th. Ms. Konz said that sky lanterns were also released by her neighbors and one of them caught the top of a tree on fire. The weather was very dry this Fourth of July. Ms. Konz would like to have bottle rockets and sky lanterns banned in the City limits. Glenn Ramsey stated he owns property on Stagecoach Road and that he lives on Decker Drive. Mr. Ramsey brought in a bag of fireworks that landed in his pasture. Mr. Ramsey said a lot of animals are injured from fireworks due to anxiety. Mr. Ramsey is concerned about fireworks being shot into his pasture and near his livestock. Resident Debra Hayden also addressed the issue of bottle rockets. She stated that quite a few ended up on her property. Ms. Hayden believes it is an aggressive action by the people shooting the fireworks. Ms. Hayden stated that there is an ongoing personal vendetta between neighbors and that the police are aware of the situation. Alderman Osteen said a couple of his horses panicked from the fireworks and he had to replace part of his fence. Mr. Ramsey believes the fireworks came from two different places – Stagecoach Road and Wright Road. Ms. Hayden said they never leave their property on New Year’s Eve or July 4th because of fireworks. Ms. Hayden believes the fireworks were fired intentionally onto her property. Alderman Osteen asked if bottle rockets are legal. Chief Wethington said rocket type fireworks are not illegal in Montgomery County. Chief Wethington said they have had to stop people at the Renaissance Festival from setting off sky lanterns due to fire danger. Terry Rutt asked about projectiles being fired across property lines. Terry Rutt said the City passed an ordinance in 2011 regulating fireworks and a big turnout rallied against banning

fireworks. Ms. Konz she said has nothing against celebrating but maybe certain fireworks, such as rockets and sky lanterns, could be banned. Mr. Ramsey said he is concerned about people coming on to his property. He said that if they stay on their own property and keep the fireworks on their own property then he is okay with allowing fireworks. Alderman Osteen would like to get back with the persons in attendance about the fireworks issue. City Attorney Baldwin said it is a crime of intent if it is done on purpose; however, you must call the police. City Secretary Rutt reported on another situation of fireworks being intentionally fired at a residence after the person shooting the fireworks had been asked to stop. The resident did not report the incident to the police. City Attorney Baldwin said that is assault. City Attorney Baldwin suggested using a video camera to record the incident. Alderman McGill said we should put this matter on the agenda at another meeting.

5. Council reviewed the minutes of the June 20, 2017 General Meeting. Alderman Osteen read the corrections. Alderwoman McClure motioned to approve the minutes, as amended. Alderman Osteen 2nd. The vote was all in favor with Alderman McGill abstaining due to being absent.
6. Schedule for City's 2017-2018 Budget. City Secretary Rutt said that we will be approving a new budget in August. Table for now.
7. Review the Effective and Rollback Tax Rates and Propose a Property Tax Rate for 2017. City Secretary Rutt reported that we should have the proposed rates from the County by the end of the month. Table for now.
8. CDBG-DR flood relief grant from Montgomery County. City Secretary Rutt briefly explained how the City learned about the grant. City Secretary Rutt said we will apply to use some of the funds to reinforce the bridge at Lake Apache. Chief Wethington said that both Charlie Riley and Craig Doyal supported the City getting the grant funds. The City of Conroe tried to claim a larger share of the funds. Chief Wethington said that if we have another flood event like the May 2016 floods, the bridge would be washed out. We are getting bids for reinforcing the backside of the bridge at Lake Apache, bids for redoing the ditches and cleaning them out, and bids for repairing and/or replacing culverts. There are as many as 40 culverts that need to be repaired and/or replaced. One bid for the bridge is approximately \$500,000. The minimum project size for the grant is \$100,000. We do not have the official guidelines from the State yet. Alderman McGahen asked if we can use the funds for road repairs. Public Works Director Rutt said that we must show how our drainage projects will benefit low income persons. Director Rutt said that we have holes in the roads where culverts are separating and that paving will have to be redone. The City Center could potentially be used as an emergency center. There will be a lot of administrative work involved with applying for and managing the grant funds. Alderman Osteen said there are many things the grant funds can and cannot be used for. Alderman Osteen will be working with the Mayor on the grant application. Alderman Osteen said that the City of Conroe contested the allocation of funds set by the County and, based on Conroe's suggested allocation, our share would have been \$134,000 instead of \$1.4 million. Mayor Mansee, Alderman Osteen, and Chief Wethington all went to the Commissioners Court meeting and spoke on behalf of the City to obtain the funds. No action required.
9. Status of new home construction projects within the City and requests for permit applications. Planning & Zoning Board Member James Schexneider reported that this month's P&Z meeting was cancelled due to no activity. City Secretary Rutt reported that

their lot has been cleared and dirt will be brought in next week for the pad. No action required.

10. Chief Wethington reported on the status of properties having ordinance violations. 16610 Wagon Wheel and 16419 Old Coach were issued notices for operating a business. 15903 Boot Hill and 15918 Indian Springs were issued notices for clutter violations. The resident at 16610 Wagon Wheel said his employees will be satellite employees from now on and they will not be parking in the road anymore. The resident at 16419 Old Coach has stopped sawing and has moved his business to another location. Chief Wethington and Sergeant Lee are going to assist the property owner at 15918 Indian Springs next Wednesday to move vehicles and clutter. No action required.
11. Status of Public Works projects and activities. Director Terry Rutt thanked the citizens who are cutting their ditches and the dam. City Secretary Rutt reported that Paul McCormick and David Adams have been helping to mow around the City. Director Rutt said that the focus for the next several months will be getting access to the grant money. If we do not receive the grant funds, we will have to use money budgeted for road repairs to repair at least three of the culverts that are separating, which will probably cost around \$15,000. No action required.
12. Financial statements for June 2017. City Secretary Rutt explained that we are still waiting on FEMA funds in the amount of \$19,000. No action required.
13. Reports:
 - a. Chief of Police: Passed out the monthly statistics report. Chief Wethington introduced Officer Anez who recently returned from Iraq. Officer Anez arrested someone for a stolen motorcycle on his first night back. Chief Wethington said his officers will no longer verbally reprimand residents; they will just issue a ticket. Chief Wethington said he has received more positive than negative feedback concerning the new no tolerance policy for off road vehicles. Chief Wethington asked Council to consider passing an ordinance at some point to allow golf carts on the roads. Chief Wethington stated that the Department is actively enforcing ordinances, stating that when the Department gets enough complaints, it reacts. Chief Wethington informed Council that he has ordered three body cameras and that any officer on duty will be wearing one. Corporal Phillip Hughes has prepared the Department's policy on body cameras. Corporal Hughes reviewed other agencies' policies to come up with a policy that fits the needs of our agency. Corporal Hughes has asked City Attorney Baldwin to review the five-page policy. Any time an officer is called to a scene or makes a stop, they must turn on the camera.
 - b. Flood Plain Administrator: No report.
 - c. P & Z Commission: No report.
 - d. City Attorney: No report.
 - e. City Secretary: No report.
 - f. Aldermen: Alderman McGill thanked Officer Anez for his service. Officer Anez said that he works as a full-time firearms instructor in Iraq, and that he trains various federal agents and oversees foreign embassies. Officer Anez has been with the Department

since 2011 and he is happy to be here and thankful that he is supported by the Chief. Officer Anez will be here for a month before going back to Iraq. Alderman Osteen welcomed Alderman McGahen back. Alderman McGahen said that the State of North Carolina just ruled that council members cannot lead prayers; however, if the prayer is led by an audience member then it is legal.

g. Mayor: No report.

14. There being no further business, Alderman McGill motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Alderman Osteen 2nd. The vote was all in favor.

Brenda Rutt

Brenda Rutt, City Secretary-Treasurer-Court Clerk

