

**CITY OF STAGECOACH
PUBLIC HEARING
E.S. Williams City Center
16930 Boot Hill Road
Stagecoach, Texas 77355**

**AUGUST 14, 2018
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES - 2018-2019 BUDGET**

State of Texas
County of Montgomery
City of Stagecoach

1. Mayor Mansee called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. The roll call was taken with the following persons present (P), absent (A), or late arrival (LA):

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

3. The Pledges of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag were said.
4. Conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Mayor Mansee explained that this public hearing is to provide an opportunity for all taxpayers to express their view on the proposed 2018-2019 budget to City Council. The City's fiscal year ends in September, so the new budget year will start on October 1, 2018. Mike Bock inquired why tax rate is so high. He asked if it is because there are no businesses in the City and whether businesses will be allowed in the future. Alderman McGahen said there is one business the City and that business has been grandfathered in. Alderman McGahen said only home-based businesses are allowed in the City. Tracey Marcantel asked how many houses are in Stagecoach. City Secretary Rutt replied that there are around 200 houses in the City. Claudette Manning asked about public works and the culverts that are being put in around the City. She asked if the County or the City is replacing the culverts. Mayor Mansee explained that the City is replacing several culverts that were damaged during Hurricane Harvey. Ms. Manning asked if she needs to obtain a permit to make improvements to the drainage ditches in front of her house. City Secretary Rutt said a permit is not required for the ditches but any changes made cannot change the flow of water. City Secretary Rutt said the ditches in front of Ms. Manning's home were dug deeper by the previous owner to help with flooding. Ms. Marcantel asked if there are any plans to widen Stagecoach Road. Ms. Marcantel is concerned about a portion of her property being taken if the road is widened. City Secretary Rutt said she has not heard of any plans by the County to widen Stagecoach Road and the City does not have any plans to widen Stagecoach Road. Stagecoach Road, from the City's entrance to Walnut Creek, is a county-maintained road. Pam Levitz said she did not receive a postcard about tonight's meeting and she would not have found out about the meeting if a neighbor had not told her. City Secretary Rutt said she mailed out postcards to every property owner in Stagecoach about the public hearing, she posted the information on the City's website and Facebook page, and she posted notices on the bulletin board at the City Center. Ms. Levitz

asked about the \$56,000 budgeted for roads this year. Mayor Mansee said we did not spend any money on paving this year because we are going to get a grant through the State that will pay for some of the paving costs. Ms. Levitz said there is plenty of money in the budget to repair the roads and she wants to know why it has not been done. City Secretary Rutt explained that the cost to pave a road is around \$130,000 a mile and there are approximately seven miles of road in the City that must be maintained. Ms. Levitz questioned why the Tahoes are on the budget because she said she knows for a fact that the last Tahoe was paid for by a grant. City Secretary Rutt told Ms. Levitz that, unfortunately, none of the Tahoes in the police department have been obtained through a grant. Ms. Levitz said that money needs to be spent on roads and not on the police. Ms. Levitz believes too much money is being wasted on the police and that tax money should be split evenly between the departments. Ms. Levitz said the other day there were two Stagecoach cops stopping people on the side of the road at the same time. Ms. Levitz said there should never be two officers on duty at the same time. Ms. Levitz questioned the need for a police department because she said there is no crime in Stagecoach. Mike Jackson said he would rather have a pothole in the road than less police officers. Claudette Manning thinks there is too much allocated in the budget for the police department. Ms. Levitz does not think we should raise taxes; she feels the City is pushing her out of her house with ever increasing taxes. Carol Henry said the police also help to maintain the roads and other public works projects. Ms. Levitz said she is tax poor and she wants her road repaired. Ms. Levitz said she lives on a budget and the City of Stagecoach should also have to live within a budget. Ms. Manning asked if there are any plans to fix the roads soon. City Secretary Rutt said that the City does have a plan for repaving the roads, which roads need to be repaired first, and the estimated cost. City Secretary Rutt said that the City contracts with the County for road paving; otherwise, the cost would be much greater. Ms. Levitz said the City could give everyone in the City a homestead exemption but we have refused to do so. City Secretary Rutt said that the City gives an over-65 exemption but not a homestead exemption. City Secretary Rutt explained that if the City gave everyone a homestead exemption we would have to raise the tax rate in order to raise the same amount of income. City Secretary Rutt attempted to explain how the effective rate for property taxes is adjusted every year to bring in approximately the same amount of tax revenue. Ms. Levitz said no one will want to buy property in Stagecoach because the taxes are so high. Ms. Manning said she wants more money spent on roads. Mr. Bock said the only way to repair the roads is to increase taxes to bring in more income.

5. Executive Session - Texas Government Code, Section 551.074: Personnel Matters. It was the consensus of Council that they recess into Executive Session to discuss and deliberate the City employees' salaries for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and Council convened into executive session at 6:43 p.m.
6. Council reconvened into regular session at 7:02 p.m.
7. Council discussed the proposed 2018-2019 Maintenance and Operations Budget. There was no further discussion.
8. There being no further business, Alderman Osteen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Alderman Cooley 2nd. The vote was all in favor.

Brenda Rutt

Brenda Rutt, City Secretary-Treasurer-Court Clerk

