

City of Hillcrest Village

Mayor's Update

The mayor's update is a report to the residents of Hillcrest Village that provides information on Council meetings and other items that impact the Village. Working with the City Council, these updates will be open and give transparent insights into the Village operations.

Mayor Brad Dawson

Regular Session Hillcrest Village Council Meeting
September 16, 2024

1. The Operations Report was presented by Caleb Cristofaro from MDS, LLC.
 - a. This report provides information on monthly water distribution and sanitary collection systems. This includes the city water plants and the wastewater plant.
 - b. Caleb reported the work to update the control panel at well #3 has begun. This project refurbishes the wiring, breakers and brings that control panel up to current codes.
 - c. A meeting was scheduled with the Mayor and MDS to review necessary repairs because of Hurricane Beryl.
2. Marshal Shohn Davison presented the August Marshal's Report.
 - a. Monthly cases included calls for service, traffic citations and warnings as well as vacation watch checks.
3. Travis Hobbs, Emergency Management Coordinator, discussed planned meetings with FEMA, Brazoria County and the Mayor concerning Hurricane Beryl recovery operations and the documentation those agencies require.
4. The monthly financials were reviewed and entered into the minutes of the meeting.
5. The minutes of the August 19, 2024 council meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

FOLLOW UP BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and possible action on the second and final reading of Ordinance 1-2024, setting the tax rate to support municipal government for the fiscal year 2024-2025. The Ordinance was approved as presented. More on this topic in the Mayor's Follow Up comments below.
- B. Discussion and possible action on the second and final reading of Ordinance 35-2024, adopting the 2024-2025 budget. The Ordinance was approved as presented. More on this topic in the Mayor's Follow-Up comments below.
- C. Discussion and possible action on the second and final reading of Ordinance 37-2024, setting of revised utility rates and fees to support the enterprise fund of the city budget. More on this topic in the Mayor's follow-up below.

This Mayor's Update summarizes the most recent meeting of the city council. Council meetings are held every third Monday at the City Hall located on 200 W. Timberlane Dr. next to the city park at 6:00 pm. This report does not replace the official city council minutes which are always reviewed and approved at the next council meeting. Those minutes are archived on the city website as required and readily available.

Mayor's Follow Up Comments

- 1) As for Ordinance 1-2024 which covers setting the property tax rate for fiscal 2024/2025. I am happy to report the city **LOWERED** the tax rate to .328997. Understand, the city has no control over the taxable value the county places on your property. The city only sets the tax rate for the value the county assesses on your property. The city was able to hold the line on expenses in the general fund and lower the rate at which your property is taxed. The city did it's part to help keep taxes in check!
- 2) Concerning Ordinance 35-2024. This Ordinance adopts the budget the Mayor and City Council set in the budget workshop in early August. Of note is setting aside funds for an independent audit of next year's accounting. We are expecting the results of this year's audit in a few days. These audits help the council focus on areas where we can improve and will become a yearly endeavor moving forward.
- 3) As for Ordinance 37-2024. This one has to do with setting the water and sewer rates and fees to support our enterprise fund which governs infrastructure maintenance and repairs. We all know prices have gone up lately and I am sad to report the costs of repairs and maintenance to our water and sewer system have quadrupled in the last 4 years. By law, the enterprise fund is supposed to be self-funding. 2024 was particularly difficult as we worked to maintain our system and make repairs and improvements we were required to do.
- 4) On a positive note, this month we reached out to inquire about the status of a 1.85 million dollar grant we received a couple years ago to replace the aging sewer lines throughout the village. I am happy to report that as of this writing we should begin to see those monies next fall/winter and begin to get shovels in the ground for that project.

The city is planning our National Night Out for Saturday September 28th from 5:00-7:30. We are hoping that moving it from the traditional first Tuesday evening of October to a Saturday evening will give residents more time to relax after a work week and visit with neighbors and old friends.

There will be a new band playing this year. "Glory" is a string band with 4-part harmony vocals that regularly plays at a local Friendswood church. Hillcrest's own Preston Armistead plays guitar and sings. There will be food trucks, another spirited corn hole contest, a water slide for the little ones and other activities we are trying to coordinate. See you there!

The fall heavy trash pick-up is scheduled for Monday October 14th. We will be doing a call out to let you know the parameters of that a little closer to the day.

Look for the fall newsletter in this month's water bills

That wraps this month's Mayor's update. All the best to you. Be Blessed, Brad

