

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
HELOTES CITY COUNCIL

The City of Helotes City Council met for a regular meeting Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 12951 Bandera Road, Helotes, Texas 78023. This was an open meeting, subject to the open meeting laws of the State of Texas.

Present: Thomas A. Schoolcraft, Mayor  
Bert Buys, Mayor Pro Tem  
Alex Blue  
Cynthia Massey  
Paul Friedrichs

Absent: Edward Villanueva (Unexcused)

Staff Present: Rick Schroder, City Administrator  
Susan Darst, Assistant to the City Administrator

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Schoolcraft called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council Member Massey led the invocation. Mayor Schoolcraft led the pledge to the U.S. flag and the Texas flag.

**RECOGNITION:**

**2. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented by Mayor Thomas A. Schoolcraft to the Gateway Fellowship Church Junior Explorers for volunteerism and litter removal from the Helotes Crossing Subdivision drainage easement on June 14, 2017.**

Mayor Schoolcraft presented a certificate of appreciation to members of the Junior Explorers.

**OPEN SESSION:**

**3. Citizens to be Heard.**

Sandy Coe spoke about speeding vehicles on Iron Horse Way.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** All items marked with an asterisk (\*\*\*) on the Consent Agenda were voted on at the beginning of the meeting. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Buys, second by Council Member Friedrichs, to approve items 4 and 5 on the consent agenda. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

**4.\*\*\* Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated June 29, 2017, as amended.\*  
(Staff)**

\*After a brief discussion and pursuant to Texas Local Government Code rules, the word "unexcused" was added after Council Members' names that were absent at this meeting. Council Member Blue's name was added to item number 4 as the Nay vote.

**5.\*\* Approval of the City of Helotes Revenue and Expense and Encumbrance Reports dated July 5, 2017. (Staff)**

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION:

**6. Presentation by Michael Amezquita, RPA, Bexar Appraisal District Chief Appraiser, and discussion of the proposed 2018 Bexar Appraisal District Budget. (BCAD)**

On June 22, 2017, City Council approved a resolution disapproving the proposed Bexar Appraisal District 2018 annual Budget. Michael Amezquita addressed Council's concern regarding the increase in the litigation budget. State Law states that the County must appraise property at its market value each year and the real estate market value has dramatically increased in recent years. Mr. Amezquita explained that when values increase, so do the appeals. BCAD in 2017 set a new record with approximately 102,000 appeals and nearly \$74.4 billion dollars of value initially under appeals.

The litigation budget line item increased because the cost of litigation and arbitration has increased. In litigation, the County must pay its own legal fees even when winning an appeal while the losing party pays the cost of arbitration. Mr. Amezquita noted that caving in to plaintiff's demands to avoid litigation costs shifts the tax burden to homeowners unfairly. The growth in filed appeals also required the addition of a paralegal position to the litigation department. Mr. Amezquita volunteered to meet with Helotes' taxpayers if Council desired.

**7. Discussed and action on Resolution No. 17-006 of the City Council of the City of Helotes, Texas approving the Bexar County Hazard Mitigation Plan; authorizing the City Administrator to take all necessary steps to implement the provisions of this Resolution; incorporating recitals; providing for severability; and adopting an effective date.**

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Buys, second by Council Member Friedrichs, to discuss and act on this item as written.

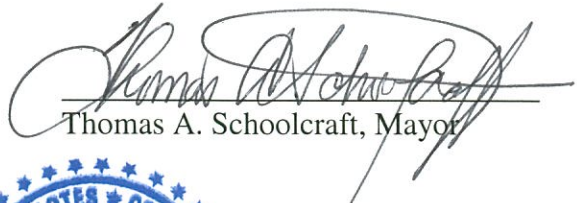
Motion to approve carried unanimously.

**Adjourn.**

With no more business to come before Council, Mayor Schoolcraft adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
for Grace Tame, City Secretary

  
Thomas A. Schoolcraft, Mayor

