



October 12, 2019 Town Hall Meeting

VOTER EDUCATION REGARDING THE WATER BONDS AND CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

We Are All - US



- All members of City Council and the Election Education Committee are:
 - Volunteers – we get no pay or money
 - Concerned Residents of Granite Shoals
 - Granite Shoals Property Owners
 - Taxpayers
 - Voters
- Please do not think in terms of “Them” and “Us” – We are all “Us”

First, A Little Housekeeping

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RESOLUTION NO. 622- A RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES OF PROCEDURE, CONDUCT AND DECORUM FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS, TEXAS AND EXTENDING SUCH RULES TO THE CITY'S BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Decorum. No person shall engage in any of the following in the meeting room during a City Council meeting:

- Shouting, unruly behavior, distracting side conversations, or speaking out when another person is talking.
- Defamation, intimidation, personal affronts, impugning the motives of any person, profanity, or threats of violence.
- Audible use of phones, pagers, radios, computers or other electronic equipment.
- Any other disruptive behavior that impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Introductions

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- Mark Morren, Chair Election Education Committee
 - George LaChance, Vice Chair
 - Eric Tanner, Treasurer
 - Anita Hisey, Member
 - Dale Lett, Member
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- Craig Bell, City Engineer of record for this project
 - Dusty Traylor, City Financial Consultant

Today's Meeting Objectives

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By state law, this committee can educate regarding issues before the public, but neither the committee members nor the City staff in attendance today can advocate either for or against these issues.

With that said, these are the primary objectives for today's meeting:

1. First, to thank you for coming today,
2. Provide you with information you can use to inform your vote in the upcoming election in November, and
3. Attempt to answer any questions you may have.

Presentation Structure

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In an attempt to help avoid confusion we will divide today's presentation into two parts.

The first part will deal with the proposed water bonds and the second will address proposed amendments to the city's 2005 charter.

Between parts of the presentation we will take questions, again in an attempt to avoid confusion.

Water Bonds - Background

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- Intake location is too close and shallow to the shore, resulting in lower water quality for the citizens.
- Storage is inadequate to meet current standards.
- Distribution system in need of expansion and replacement of old, leaking pipes.

Water Bonds - What IS Being Sought

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- Voter approval to issue up to \$7 million in utility bonds for the following improvements to the Granite Shoals municipal water system:
- Move intake to deeper water.
- Replace the existing water tower located on Phillips Ranch Rd.
- Replace up to 40,000 feet of water distribution lines

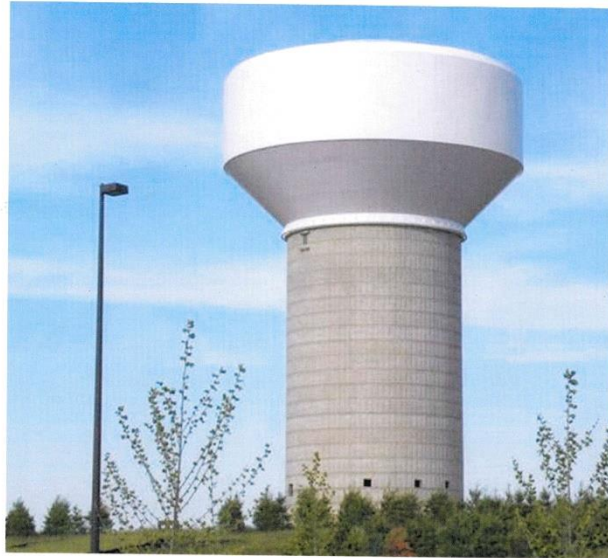
Why a new Water Tower

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- Current tower is no longer compliant with existing Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards.
- Current tower capacity is 100,000 gallons
- Standard for city size and system capacity is 250,000 gallons.

Proposed Water Tower

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Water Bonds - What **IS NOT** Being Sought

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- Council has promised to **not raise water rates** to fund the proposed water system improvements.
- Passage of the Water Bonds **will not increase property taxes**, for three reasons:
 - Current low interest rate environment
 - Older bonds are expiring; therefore, the new bonds will not result in an increase in bonded indebtedness. The new Water Bonds, if approved, will take the place of the bonds that are currently being 'paid off'.
 - City has a strong Bond Rating

Ballot Language Water Bonds

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This is what you will see on the ballot next month:

FOR [] THE ISSUANCE OF \$7,000,000 BONDS FOR SURFACE AND GROUND WATER SYSTEM PROJECTS TO INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY'S WATER TREATMENT PLANT, A NEW ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK AND WATER LINE UPGRADES, AND LEVYING THE TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF

AGAINST []

Summation

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- The City **IS NOT** seeking additional funding from its taxpayers in the election next month; it is seeking voter approval to issue bonds to improve the water system.
- If the bonds are sold the City **WILL** improve the water system to the extent possible with the funds available.
- The bond money **WILL NOT** be used for any purpose except the water system.

Water Bonds

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Questions?

Proposed Charter Amendments

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Background

- The current charter for the city of Granite Shoals was approved by the voters in 2005, and has been in effect since.
- The City is required to review, and if necessary, amend the charter on a periodic basis, to ensure that it remains as effective and efficient as possible.
- In 2018 the City Council established a commission to review the 2005 charter and recommend additions, deletions, and modifications.

Proposed Charter Amendments

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Background, cont.

- The Charter Review Commission received input from the public, city officials, and reviewed charters from cities similar to Granite Shoals.
- The Commission reviewed each section of the current charter, and armed with the data listed above, proposed changes deemed appropriate to parts of the charter.
- The Commissions' recommendations were then reviewed by the City Attorney prior to being presented to City Council for its review and action.
- The results of this seven month effort is now presented to the voters.

Proposed Charter Amendments

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- The changes jointly proposed by the Commission and Council are intended to:
 - Comply with changes in state law since 2005,
 - Lower operating costs whenever possible,
 - Increase transparency and information provided to citizens,
 - Improve efficiency and effectiveness of city staff,

Charter Amendments

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- In order to make best use of everyone's time we would propose not to review each of the proposed amendments.
- Instead, we would be pleased to address any issues raised by those in attendance.
- If you have a question please start by citing the charter number in question, and then your question/ issue.