


MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2025

TO: Mayor Lankford & City Council

VIA: Mercy Rushing, City Manager

FROM: Cindy Karch, City Secretary/Finance Director 

SUBJECT: Discuss and consider award of bid to Hilltop Securities to provide Financial Advisory Services to the City of Mineola.

Background Information:

The City solicited bids for Financial Advisory Services. The notice of bid acceptance was published in the Wood County Monitor and posted on the City of Mineola website. One response was received from Hilltop Securities. The city has used their services in the past and has been very happy with them.

This contract will be for any future bond issues during the term of the contract, which will be proposed at the February meeting. The next bond issue planned is the \$5,500,000 loan from the Texas Water Development Board, which has a 90% forgiveness. These funds will be used for water and sewer infrastructure repairs.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends awarding the bid to Hilltop Securities. A copy of the bid packet may be viewed upon request.

Final Disposition:



SRA proposals concern RV park owners

By BRYNNA WILLIAMSON
news@wood.cm

Nearly 30 community members from the Wood County area attended last Thursday's Quitman City Council meeting.

The majority of the meeting revolved around a discussion of the proposed changes to the Sabine River Authority (SRA) Lake Fork Rules and Regulations.

The three key takeaways, according to City Secretary James Attaway's presentation, were regarding the SRA's proposed rule changes to include extending roadway width, increasing the separation distance between RVs to 25 feet and eventually removing all park model RVs and tiny homes.

Community members – especially those who own RV parks in the Lake Fork area – spoke to the council regarding their concern about the new rules. While park owners mentioned that they wanted to work alongside the SRA, many had concerns about the proposed park model home removal, which they say will come to impact local cities and the county with millions of dollars of lost revenue. Ultimately, with both the park model RV removal and the increased lot size regulation, some park owners may not be able to afford staying open, said several citizens who spoke at the meeting.

"Just the groceries – there's 47 parks on the lake. Just say a thousand people a weekend

that the parks drive. \$200 is typical, for groceries 52 weeks a year; I suggest that's probably very, very conservative, and very low. That's \$10.4 million a year, in annual revenue," said park owner Mark Dunn (who has no relation to Quitman Mayor Randy Dunn). "When that starts to ripple through, then your local economy starts to suffer."

"That's a downward spiral, unfortunately," he continued.

However, despite the many concerns, questions and personal feelings involved in the discussion, Mayor Dunn took a moment to remind the community that nothing is yet finalized regarding the rules, and that Troy Henry, the Upper Basin manager for the SRA, "is a good



Mark Dunn addresses the Quitman City Council Thursday concerning proposed rule changes by the Sabine River Authority that will impact recreational vehicle parks around Lake Fork, many of which were represented. (Monitor photo by Brynna Williamson)

guy" who is willing and wanting to work with the community on the proposed changes.

"We were asking from a little bit different standpoint, but our heart goes out to you that this is all coming on so quick," said Mayor Dunn. "They haven't got that set in concrete...

if they have situations that come in, saying, 'Hey, we need a chance to work towards that; we can't just do it that hard and fast,' then I would voice that. He (Henry) welcomed that."

The board voted to send a letter to the SRA in order to request an economic impact study

of the proposed changes.

The Mineola City Council was scheduled to consider a similar letter on Monday.

The board also discussed a motion to approve the consumption of alcohol (beer and

See SRA, Page 5A

Blue Santa returning to assist kids

The Blue Santa program is gearing up for another year of granting Christmas wishes as local police officers and first responders take children shopping who otherwise might have a lean Christmas.

Whataburger in Mineola will continue its role in the program along with 22 sister stores in East Texas, donating one half of all sales from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

So don't be alarmed by flashing lights in front of the restaurant on N. Pacific St.

Donations can also be made directly to the officers on hand.

The officers and their



charges will descend on the Mineola Walmart on Tuesday, Dec. 17 for their shopping spree.

Each year the children are delighted to find that, yes, they can buy anything in the store they want.

Last year the shopping sprees were around \$400 each for 65 kids.

The program was begun in 2019, when the shopping sprees were \$100. Since that time about \$75,000 has been raised and 200 children assisted.

The Wood County First Responders Association was formed as

See SANTA, Page 5A

Wreaths Across America expands to seven Wood County cemeteries

The Wreaths Across America program continues to grow across Wood County.

This year the program that places Christmas wreaths on the graves of military veterans during the holiday season will be honoring those who served at seven local cemeteries.

The New Hope Cemetery east of Mineola is joining the program this year. The cemetery, established in 1864, has 112 veterans graves to honor, including some Civil War veterans.

Other participating cemeteries this year include Roselawn north of Mineola, which is the home to more than 700 veterans. Others include Hawkins Cemetery, Hol-

ly Tree Cemetery, Lee Cemetery in Winnsboro and the Shady Grove and Pineview Cemeteries.

Wreaths will be placed on Saturday, Dec. 14 following a brief ceremony at most locations.

The wreaths cost \$17 apiece.

They can be purchased at the website wreathscrossamerica.org and may be designated to a specific cemetery, and in some cases, to a specific grave.

The codes for the local cemeteries are as follows, along with the number of wreaths needed (as of Nov. 20) and ceremony times:

New Hope TXNHCM 110 wreaths needed, ceremony at 11 a.m.

Roselawn TXBFHM 57 more needed, ceremony at 11 a.m.

Holly Tree TXHTCR, 94 wreaths, goal exceeded, ceremony at 10 a.m.

Hawkins TXHCBS 150 wreaths, goal exceeded, ceremony at noon

Shady Grove TXSGCW 110 wreaths needed, ceremony at 1 p.m.

Pineview TXPINE 34 wreaths needed (joint ceremony with Shady Grove)

Lee Cemetery TXLEEC 469 wreaths needed, ceremony at 11 a.m.

Volunteers may also contribute by attending the events and helping put out the wreaths. Donations are also accepted to defray various administration and transportation expenses.

Golden makes the most of Musgraves' joke

Golden Texas is no stranger to the national spotlight, like that time Oprah Winfrey mentioned the famed sweet potatoes on her show and gave some away to her audience.

The celebrity who brought the unplanned attention this time was local native and country music superstar Kacey Musgraves.

The community's reaction to a perceived slight jab at the community has led to a positive outcome for the Golden Sweet Potato Festival's scholarship fund for Alba-Golden High School seniors.

It all started soon after the Nov. 5 election when Musgraves was performing in Toronto, Canada.

She told the audience she had called her hotel and asked to extend her stay – for four years.

Then she mentioned being

from a "tiny ass" town in Texas called Golden, and some audience members began to cheer, to which she replied that's it's not really something to cheer about.

That got the wheels to turning in Golden, spearheaded by the festival's board of directors and member Kamie Bishop.

She posted on Facebook that they respectfully disagreed with Kacey's assessment of her former hometown and came up with a t-shirt to broadcast that there is indeed something to cheer about.

The t-shirts are in an orange shade closely resembling the famed potatoes, with the message:

Golden, Texas
Something to cheer for – everyone

They quickly sold out, raising more than \$8,000 for the

scholarship fund and spurring an apology from Musgraves along with a \$10,000 donation to the fund.

She called her remarks about Golden a "sarcastic, completely unserious joke," adding "...maybe every joke or viewpoint doesn't always land."

She continued, "In so many ways I really love my Texas roots. Nothing but love and I truly never meant to offend."

The story was picked up by TMZ, which posted the concert video as well as her entire statement from her Instagram.

That led to the following statement from the festival board:

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM GOLDEN

Now that the dust has settled, we want to take a moment to share a few things about our community, Gold-

en, Texas. The kids you see here (group photo of the Alba-Golden seniors in their shirts) were the motivation behind the "Something to Cheer For" shirts. Golden is a great community filled with even better people. We turned a negative situation into a positive, showing what truly makes Golden so special.

While sometimes things can hurt our feelings or get under our skin, we've found a way to rise above it – just like Golden always does. This community supports each other, has each other's backs, and that's why Golden is truly something to cheer for. We love our little slice of Heaven, and we stand by the saying: "Once from Golden, always from Golden."

We also want to acknowledge Kacey Musgraves, who reached out publicly as well

as privately and sincerely apologized for the comment made about our town. She expressed how much she still appreciates and loves Golden, and we are grateful for her kind words. We will not let that go unnoticed. We take great pride in our community and the kindness we show to one another. It's a reminder to always remember where our roots are.

In a wonderful act of generosity, Kacey graciously donated \$10,000 to support our scholarship fund. With her donation, plus the proceeds from the sale of our shirts, we raised a total of \$18,062 for the GSPF Alba-Golden Seniors Scholarship Fund.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this possible. Your support means the world to our community!

Magical 2024 Mineola

COMPLETELY FREE
December 6th
5p.m.-9p.m.

Visit Mineola.com or City of Mineola Facebook page for More Info or Inside this Edition on Page 10.

Shop Local Holiday Promotion

CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

December 7th
• PARADE & SANTA •
• CHRISTMAS MINI TRAIN •

December 8th
1p.m.-5p.m.

Mineola Landmark Commission's
"Past & Present"
Home Tour
Tickets \$20

MINEOLA.COM • CITY OF MINEOLA • 903-569-6183

Wood County Monitor classifieds

– NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE – Saturday, December 7 - 10am

A&W Boat and Storage

3735 W State Hwy 154
Yantis, TX 75497
972-275-6915 Office

Auction of Personal Property to Satisfy Landlord Lien:

Seth Montgomery, Unit B6 - Selling Entire Unit

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing has been set by the Wood County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 for revision on the plat of Wayne Byley Subdivision, No. 20, located within Precinct 1 of Wood County.

The revision includes Lots 1 & 2, Wayne Byley Subdivision.

The public hearing is set for Friday, December 20, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. in the Wood County Commissioners Courtroom. All persons interested in revision to this plat may appear at the public hearing with opposition should they so desire.

Virgil Holland
Virgil Holland
Wood County Precinct 1 Commissioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing has been set by the Wood County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 for revision on the plat of Lake Brenda Estates Subdivision, located within Precinct 2 of Wood County.

The revision includes Lots 59 & 60, Lake Brenda Estates.

The public hearing is set for Friday, December 20, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. in the Wood County Commissioners Courtroom. All persons interested in revision to this plat may appear at the public hearing with opposition should they so desire.

Jerry Gaskill
Jerry Gaskill
Wood County Precinct 2 Commissioner

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code that Zipps Liquor LP dba Zipps Liquor #46 has filed application for Package Store Permit; Local Distributor's Permit. Said business to be conducted at 350 Richards St, Quitman (Wood County), TX 75783.

Zipps Liquor LP dba Zipps Liquor #46 Zipps Management Inc - Gen Partner; Naresh Mittal - Pres/Limited Partner; Mukesh Mittal - V-Pres/Limited Partner; Manjeet Ghuman - V-Pres/Limited Partner; Anuj Mittal - V-Pres/Limited Partner; Varun Mittal - Limited Partner; Pirtal Singh - Limited Partner; Hartej Singh - Limited Partner.

Rentals

Duplexes

FOR RENT
3/2 Duplex, \$1400/month plus electric, Mineola, 903-569-2665.

Mobile Homes

HOLLY LAKE RANCH
117 Little Acorn Cove, 2BD/1BA mobile home, for sale \$45K or rent \$750 deposit, \$750 month includes HOA fee. Call or text 214-622-2647.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Georgia Ann Rambo, Deceased, were issued on November 18, 2024, under Cause No. 14,802, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to Newell V. Rambo, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Newell Vernon Rambo, Jr., Executor
Estate of Georgia Ann Rambo,
Deceased
c/o Robert B. Wilson
Attorney at Law
Law Office of Robert B. Wilson, PLLC
P. O. Box 1529
Quitman, Texas 75783

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated November 18, 2024.

Robert B. Wilson
Robert B. Wilson
Attorney for Executor

CITY OF MINEOLA

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR BOND COUNCIL



RFQ #2024-11-1

The City of Mineola

300 Greenville Hwy, Mineola, TX 75773
(903) 569-6183

The City of Mineola, in accordance with Section 2254.004, Texas Government Code, is requesting qualifications for Bond Council services. It is the policy of the City of Mineola to purchase services in accordance with Section 2254.004, Government Code. It is understood that the City of Mineola City Council reserves the right to arrive at such determination by whatever means deemed appropriate and shall be the sole judge in the matter. Instructions for Qualification Statements can be found on the City of Mineola Website at <https://www.mineola.com/> or by contacting the City via email at ckarch@mineola.com or by mail at the address listed above.

Request for Qualifications will be received by the City of Mineola at 300 Greenville Hwy, Mineola, TX 75773 until 3:00 P.M., Local Time, Thursday, January 16, 2025.

NO. 14,812

ESTATE OF § IN THE COUNTY COURT
LOUIE §
NIKOLICH, § OF
DECEASED § WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LOUIE NIKOLICH

On November 12, 2024, original Letters Testamentary were issued to me by the County Court of Wood County, Texas, acting in Cause No. 14,812, styled In Re: ESTATE OF LOUIE NIKOLICH, DECEASED, and in which court the matter is pending. I now hold those Letters Testamentary, and the administration of the estate of LOUIE NIKOLICH has commenced. ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LOUIE NIKOLICH are required to present those claims to me at the address shown below prior to the expiration of the limitations period on the claims, before the estate is closed, and within the time prescribed by law.

Dated: November 14, 2024.

/s/ Gregory A. Fraser
Attorney and Resident Agent
for the Independent Executrix
of the Estate of Louie Nikolich,
Deceased
P.O. Box 2562
Lindale, Texas 75771

CITY OF MINEOLA

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR



RFQ #2024-11-2

The City of Mineola

300 Greenville Hwy, Mineola, TX 75773
(903) 569-6183

The City of Mineola, in accordance with Section 2254.004, Texas Government Code, is requesting qualifications for Financial Advisor Service. It is the policy of the City of Mineola to purchase services in accordance with Section 2254.004, Government Code. It is understood that the City of Mineola City Council reserves the right to arrive at such determination by whatever means deemed appropriate and shall be the sole judge in the matter. Instructions for Qualification Statements can be found on the City of Mineola Website at <https://www.mineola.com/> or by contacting the City via email at ckarch@mineola.com or by mail at the address listed above.

Request for Qualifications will be received by the City of Mineola at 300 Greenville Hwy, Mineola, TX 75773 until 3:00 P.M., Local Time, Thursday, January 16, 2025.

Last week's puzzle
solution Page 6A

CLERK OF THE COURT
SUZY WRIGHT
PO BOX 1707
QUITMAN, TX 75783

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY OR PETITIONER
PHIL SMITH
300 OAK AVE
SULPHUR SPRINGS TX 75482

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: Emileigh Paige Watson, Respondent(s), Greetings:

"You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. You or your attorney are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition at or before 10:00 a.m. of the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation."

Said Plaintiff's Original Petition was filed in the 402nd Judicial District Court of Wood County, Texas on this the 23rd day of July, 2024, in this cause numbered **2024-445** on the docket of said court, and styled,

DANIELLE DAWN LUTHER
VS.

ETHAN LUTHER, MADISON LUTHER, KRISTI DAWN HIGGINBOTHAM, EMILEIGH PAIGE WATSON AND MISTI LUTHER

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit:

On July 23, 2024, DANIELLE LUTHER filed a Petition to Partition suit in Cause Number 2024-445 entitled Danielle Luther vs. Ethan Luther, Madison Luther, Kristi Higgenbotham, Emileigh Paige Watson and Madison Luther, in the District Court, 402nd Judicial District of Wood County, Texas.

As is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit. The officer executing this process shall promptly execute the same according to law, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and Seal of said Court at office in Quitman, Texas, on this the 22nd day of November, 2024.



ATTEST:
SUZY WRIGHT- CLERK
402nd Judicial District Court of
Wood County, Texas

By: *Paige Brown*, DEPUTY



HEFNER GROUP INSURANCE

2185 N. Pacific, Ste. 200 • Mineola TX 75773
903-569-5115 • www.HefnerGroup.com

ACROSS

- 1 in Lubbock: Texas _____ University
- 5 "March Madness" is a _____ basketball tournament
- 6 TX Jim Reeves hit: "Welcome _____ World" (1964)
- 7 Harris of 2008 film "Appaloosa" with TX Renee Zellweger
- 8 _____ City, Texas
- 9 what hurricanes produce on the Texas coast
- 15 "it weighs _____" (heavy)
- 16 most fleecy
- 19 in Wood County on U.S. 69
- 21 Cowboys fly their _____ away
- 22 Nicaraguan rebels (1979-90)
- 27 worst cattle drive position
- 28 Bellville's county
- 29 noisy sleeper
- 30 TX Jodey Arrington House committee: "_____ Means"
- 32 gym class abbr.
- 33 excitable
- 36 TX Zellweger has been dressed by _____ Cassini
- 37 miles _____ hour
- 38 every state except Alaska is _____ than Texas by area
- 39 those who served in the military
- 41 heap of something

DOWN

- 42 titled women in the UK
- 45 rip apart
- 46 Texas creek name: "Yo _____ Digo"
- 47 TX JoBeth Williams 1980 film: "_____ Crazy"
- 48 horse morsel
- 49 "humble" is this regarding Texans
- 52 high maintenance person
- 53 tree chopper
- 54 Texas singer, Stuckey who sang "Sweet Thang"
- 55 Fabio Luisi directs this "Big D" orchestra (abbr.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

- 1 explosive material used in fracking
- 2 _____friendly (not harmful to the environment)
- 3 Milam County seat
- 4 this man led the "Fredonian Rebellion," first attempt by Texans at independence (2 wds.)
- 8 this Thorpe helped the Rockets win a NBA title in 1994

ACROSS

- 9 big amusement park in Arlington: "Six _____"
- 10 Beaumont univer.
- 11 TXism: "out _____ kilter" (broken)
- 12 1972 film about a Texas magistrate: "The Life and Times _____ Bean"
- 13 TXism: "gives up the ghost"
- 14 badger's den
- 15 TX George Strait 1982 hit: "_____ by Morning"
- 16 peel the skin off
- 17 payment for a graduate teaching assistant, e.g.

ACROSS

- 26 not wholesale
- 28 Gulf shrimp catcher (2 wds.)
- 31 bitter beers
- 34 Willie Nelson is one Texas member of the Grand _____ Opry
- 35 dir. from Mineola to Pittsburg, TX
- 37 breathe hard
- 40 500 sheets of paper
- 43 South Padre Island acquisition (2 wds.)
- 44 TX Dennis Quaid 2005 film: "Yours, _____ Ours"
- 50 TX-born Robby Benson film: "_____ Billy Joe"
- 51 Yankee state (abbr.)