

RESOLUTION 2012-9-2

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY'S POSITION REGARDING MINIMUM MAINTENANCE OF FIRE HYDRANTS AND MINIMUM FIRE FLOW THROUGHOUT EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTING RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF WEST LAKE HILLS

WHEREAS, The City of West Lake Hills ("City") is charged with the responsibility to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the community by preventing death, injuries and property damage from fires within the City Limits; and

WHEREAS, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 9 ("ESD") is charged with the responsibility to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the community by preventing death, injuries and property damage from fires within the ESD boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 10 (the "District") is the supplier of potable water and fire hydrants to all properties served by the City; and

WHEREAS, the current average home size throughout the City is over 3,200 square feet; and

WHEREAS, the average size of new homes constructed over the past two years throughout the City is over 7,300 square feet and the State of Texas does not allow the City to require the installation of residential sprinkler systems; and

WHEREAS, 2,000 gallons per minute (GPM) is the minimum recommended fire flow that will allow the ESD to provide adequate fire fighting capability throughout the City Limits. This is based on the average between the square footage of existing homes as compared to the trend of larger homes being built throughout the City and then compared to the minimum fire flow established within the International Fire Code and International Wildland-Urban Interface; and

WHEREAS, the City shares the concerns of the District and ESD that rapid and efficient firefighting efforts could be impeded and pose a significant threat to the health, safety, and welfare of City residents and their property from fires if a minimum adequate fire flow and an annual hydrant maintenance program is not established.

NOW, THEREFORE, MAY IT BE RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAKE HILLS THAT:

Section 1. The City urges the District to establish a minimum fire flow rate of 2,000 gallons per minute (GPM) throughout the District's service area in the City and to commit the necessary funds to upgrade the existing infrastructure as needed to ensure that all of the District's fire hydrants throughout the City meet the recommended minimum standard.

Section 2. The City urges the District to establish an annual maintenance program for all fire hydrants throughout the City following guidelines set forth in American Water Works Association (AWWA) Manual M-17 (Installation, Field Testing, and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants) and the applicable International Fire Code. The program should include, but not be limited to, routine annual maintenance that consists of inspecting, flushing, cleaning, painting, and clearing of weeds and debris to insure that each hydrant is serviceable and accessible.

Section 3. The City urges the District to establish a program to paint all public fire hydrants silver and identify private hydrants requiring private property owners to paint red throughout the City.

Section 4. The City urges the District to establish a program to color code the fire hydrants in accordance with National Fire Protection Association standards indicating available fire flow by painting the top and caps of the fire hydrants throughout the City.

Section 5. The City directs City Staff to establish a process to include the ESD in residential plan reviews of projects that exceed 3,600 square feet. This would allow the ESD the opportunity to inform the owner of any potential fire hydrant water supply concerns and help answer any questions on alternative construction methods that could help reduce fire risk.

Section 6. The City Secretary is hereby directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the District and ESD and to file it in the official records of the City.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12TH day of September, 2012.

(SEAL)



DAVE CLAUNCH, MAYOR
CITY OF WEST LAKE HILLS

ATTEST:

Janet Rogers, City Secretary