

**CITY OF COPPERAS COVE  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 14, 2002 - 6:00 P.M.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rodney G. Nauert called the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove, Texas to order at 6:07 p.m.

**B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Ray Don Clayton gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ROLL CALL**

Bradi D. Diaz  
Ray Don Clayton  
John F. Gallen  
Charlotte Heinze (absent)  
Fred Harris  
Bud Owsley  
Annabelle Smith

**ALSO PRESENT**

Steven J. Alexander, City Manager  
Pamela J. Russell, City Secretary  
James R. Thompson, Interim City Attorney

**D. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Public Hearing on the growing deer population in the City of Copperas Cove. ***Mr. Brian Richards, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.***

Mr. Brian Richards stated that Copperas Cove is on the edge of Hill Country, which has the highest density of white tailed deer, and that hunting is the only mechanism in North America that provides the only effective means of keeping the deer population down.

Mr. Richards listed six possible solutions to the deer problem:

1. Build a seven-foot fence around property to keep the deer out.
2. Pass an ordinance that would prohibit the feeding of deer.
3. Pass an ordinance to allow archery within the City limits.
4. Pass an ordinance that would allow issuing deer permitting, which could include an extended hunting season, and authorizing a higher number of deer to be killed. These permits would only be issued to licensed hunters, and it would be a very controlled situation.
5. Trap and relocate the deer, although it is very difficult to relocate the deer, and this option can become expensive.
6. Contract with a team of effective sharp shooters, this is the only technique that actually works, although no city in Texas has actually done this yet.

Mr. Richards added that other cities in Texas have been successful with deer permitting, they are required to process the meat and donate it to charity.

Mayor Nauert opened the Public Hearing at 6:54 p.m. The following citizens spoke at the public hearing:

Ms. Jean Durham - 1001 13<sup>th</sup> Street - Stated she thought non-feeding of the deer was the best option for this area, and does not believe the City should participate in an expensive venture until the actual deer population has been determined.

Mr. Robert Calliham – 1203 Bluff Drive - Noticed the deer population has increased on an annual basis, and stated there was a problem with deer darting out in front of cars at night without warning, there is a safety factor involved.

Mr. Al Castillo - 1002 Bleu Spur - Feeds deer and does not see a problem, and stated that the deer were in the area before the houses were built. He has an eight foot fence around his property, and the deer do not jump over it.

Jim Rudd - 2310 Veterans Avenue – Stated he had lived on Veterans Avenue for six years. Has witnessed deer causing traffic accidents. Has to put chicken wire on all of his plants to prevent the deer from eating them.

Pat Cromman - 105 Deer Flat – Has seen a decline in the number of deer in her neighborhood, her neighbors have bought horses and now the deer no longer come to feed.

#### **E. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Rodney G. Nauert, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Pamela J. Russell, TRMC City Secretary