

**City of Wimberley**  
City Hall, 221 Stillwater  
Wimberley, Texas 78676  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of City Council**  
September 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Bob Flocke.

Mayor Flocke gave the Invocation and Councilmembers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Bob Flocke and Councilmembers Tom Talcott, Mac McCullough, Matt Meeks, Steve Thurber, and John White.

Staff Present: City Administrator Don Ferguson and City Secretary Cara McPartland

### **Citizens Communications**

La Toya Trail resident Monta Lane spoke of her past experience in elder care and current residential end-of-life care provided in her home to two elderly ladies. She asked Council to consider a conditional use permit or Zoning Code amendment to allow for continuation of her current operation. Mrs. Lane provided information on State of Texas licensing requirements and details on the scope of her services. She invited neighbors and community members to visit her home to observe the quality of comfort and care given to her residents. Mrs. Lane stated that she provides a clean, safe, and attractive environment for those who would otherwise be placed in nursing homes or hospitals.

Jill Jones, whose mother resides at the Lanes' home, expressed appreciation for the quality of attention and care that her mother receives. She felt that a move would negatively impact her ninety-nine year-old mother. Ms. Jones stated that the Lanes' home is very peaceful and asked that Council carefully consider the impact of decisions on helpless individuals who are blessed to be under the Lanes' care.

### **1. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of September 1, 2011
- B. Approval of the minutes of the Special City Council meeting of August 29, 2011
- C. Approval of the minutes of the Special City Council meeting of August 29, 2011
- D. Approval of the August 2011 Financial Statements for the City of Wimberley
- E. Approval of the City of Wimberley 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Investment Report

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve all Consent Agenda Items, as presented. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

## 2. City Administrator Report

- Status report on the development and operation of the Blue Hole Regional Park

City Administrator Ferguson reported on post-Labor Day operations (weekends only until October 16, 2011), record attendance, upcoming events at the Park, and revenues generated (approximately \$115,000).

- Status report on development of a *Firewise* program for the City of Wimberley

City Administrator Ferguson reported on educational aspects of the program and advised that Texas Forest Service employee/City of Wimberley Parks Board member Jan Fulkerson-Barr will be forming a citizens' advisory panel. A Texas Parks and Wildlife Department video of the Bastrop wildfires was displayed. Website postings relating to wildfire prevention and emergency notification were noted.

- Status report on the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Financial and Compliance Report for the City of Wimberley

City Administrator Ferguson reported that the City's annual audit is currently underway and anticipated presentation of the final report to Council in late January/early February 2012.

- Status report on the City of Wimberley Street Improvement Program

City Administrator Ferguson reported that Malone Drive and Twilight Trail improvements have been completed. Remaining streets to be improved include Smith Creek Road and Cliffview Drive.

## 3. Presentation

Presentation by representative(s) of *The Burning Love Benefit* regarding their upcoming event to raise funds for the victims of the Bastrop wildfires. (*Madonna Kimball & Tom Keyser*)

Tom Keyser provided details on fundraising efforts, including area benefits, formation of a fundraising committee, broad-based community involvement, support from various local merchants/organizations, funds raised to date, solicitation of donations, and donation fund recipients.

## 4. Public Hearing and Possible Action

- A. Hold a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance of the City of Wimberley, Texas, approving an application for a conditional use permit (CUP) submitted by Elliot Levine to operate a vacation rental facility on an approximately 1.848 acre tract located at 265 Climbing Way, Wimberley, Hays County, Texas, zoned Single Family Residential 3 (R-3), and imposing certain conditions; and providing for findings of fact; amendment of

the zoning district map; repealer; severability; effective date; proper notice and meeting; and providing for certain conditions. (*Elliot Levine, Applicant*)

This item was heard after Agenda Item 7I.

City Administrator Ferguson reported that on August 29, 2011, the applicant submitted a written request to the City to withdraw the CUP application.

Councilmember Thurber moved to accept the withdrawal request. Councilmember Meeks seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- B. Hold a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance of the City of Wimberley, Texas amending Ordinance No. 2009-042 which amended the development regulations for a designated Planned Unit Development located on a 5.3443 acre tract more commonly known as 14835 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley, Hays County, Texas, in order to revise certain development regulations relating to the maximum building square footage, the total project square footage, and parking; and providing for the following: delineation on zoning map; findings of fact; severability; effective date and proper notice and meeting. (*John McCrocklin, Applicant*)

City Administrator Ferguson reported that on September 7, 2011, the applicant submitted a written request to delay consideration of the requested amendment for a two-week period. He recommended that Council vote to continue consideration of this item until its next regular meeting on October 6, 2011. He noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to consider making a recommendation on this zoning case on September 22, 2011.

Councilmember Thurber moved to continue this item until the Council's next regular meeting on October 6, 2011. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- C. Hold a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance of the City of Wimberley, Texas, amending Section 155 (Zoning), Appendix F, of the Code of Wimberley, designating geographic boundaries for a particular zoning district and classification for 2.11 acres of property located at 355 Smith Creek Road, Wimberley, Hays County, Texas, designating such property from Residential Acreage (RA) to Rural Residential 1 (R-1); and providing for the following: delineation on zoning map; severability; effective date and proper notice and meeting. (*David Mooty, Applicant*)

City Administrator Ferguson reported on the subject property's current/proposed zoning and uses, location, and associated replat dissolving three tracts to form one 2.11 acre tract. He advised that no comments have been received on the requested zoning change and recommended approval.

Planning and Zoning Commission Vice Chair Tom Haley reported that the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval and noted that the subject property's prior zoning designation was incorrect.

Mayor Flocke opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Flocke closed the public hearing.

City Administrator Ferguson clarified that this zoning change request is in accordance with lot size requirements and corrects a prior zoning designation of the subject property in 2002.

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember White seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

## **5. Resolution for Possible Action**

Consider approval of a resolution of the City Council of Wimberley, Texas adopting the City of Wimberley Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2011 and ending September 30, 2012. (*City Administrator*)

This item was heard after Agenda Item 7B.

City Administrator Ferguson reviewed the revised FY 2012 Proposed Budget and discussion addressed options to cover increased election costs due to action taken on Agenda Item 7B.

Councilmember Thurber made a motion to move \$10,000 from Public Works Roads - *Road Maintenance Reserve* to Council-Board Expenditures - *Election* and approve the revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 City of Wimberley Budget, as amended. After brief discussion, Councilmember Thurber restated his motion to move from \$10,000 from Public Works Roads - *Road Maintenance Reserve* to Council-Board Expenditures - *Election*. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Clarification was provided to David Wilson on questions related to the budget approval process and to Councilmember Talcott's inquiry on the status of acquisition of a city marshal's vehicle.

Councilmember McCullough moved to approve the resolution adopting the FY 2012 City of Wimberley Budget, as amended above. Councilmember Thurber seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

## **6. Ordinances for Possible Action**

- A. Consider approval of an ordinance of the City of Wimberley, Texas amending Chapter 30 (Administration) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Wimberley in order to amend the election date for the Mayor and City Council members to the uniform election date in November; providing for an effective date; proper notice and meeting, severability and repealer. [*City Administrator; consideration of this item, if any, will occur after Item 7(B) on this agenda*]

No action was taken on this item. (*See Agenda Item 7B.*)

- B. Consider approval of an ordinance of the City of Wimberley, Texas amending Chapter 70 (Traffic Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Wimberley in order to prohibit through truck traffic through certain portions of Ranch Road 12, and provide for an alternate truck traffic route as described herein; providing for an effective date and penalty; proper notice and meeting, severability and repealer. *(City Administrator)*

This item was heard after Agenda Item 5.

City Administrator Ferguson explained details of the ordinance and actions needed by other entities in order to obtain Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) approval of the proposed alternate truck routes. Discussion addressed enforcement issues, truck deliveries to specific areas, and reduction of the speed limit on FM 3237. Councilmember Talcott expressed concerns about speeding on FM 3237 in the area of Deer Creek Nursing Center.

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember White seconded. Mayor Flocke advised Bill Wilson that the issue of speeding on FM 3237 at Old Kyle Road can be revisited at a future time. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

## **7. Discussion and Possible Action**

- A. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposed traffic safety improvement plan for La Buena Vista Drive and Las Flores Drive. *(Place One Councilmember Tom Talcott)*

This item was heard after Agenda Item 4C.

Various correspondences related to this item were distributed to Council at the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

Madonna Kimball spoke on positive feedback received regarding the proposed plan and felt that this it is a much better and safer solution for people who walk and drive on La Buena Vista and Las Flores.

Warehouse business owner Rita Nettles spoke of the negative impact the proposed plan would have on truck deliveries to her business and questioned the benefits of making La Buena Vista Drive a one-way street. She felt that the proposed plan creates turning difficulties for trucks, routes 18-wheeler traffic through the neighborhood, and poses a hardship for businesses and deliveries. She suggested blocking off the southbound part of Las Flores to reroute traffic coming from Ranch Road 12 onto La Buena Vista. Mrs. Nettles stated that the affected industrial area needs access.

David Wilson favored the presentation given by Renee Boschert at the community meeting held on September 6, 2011, which left La Buena Vista as a two-way street and created two separate residential neighborhoods, as a much safer option that would force everyone to use Emergency Lane. He spoke favorably of a possible long-range Transportation Master Plan (TMP) project for extension of Green Acres to Ranch Road 12. Mayor Flocke clarified that long-range TMP

proposals such as the Green Acres extension are subject to change over time and very unlikely to come to fruition at any time in the near future due to extremely high costs.

Jean Veriato stated that the current configuration of Las Flores/La Buena Vista Drives works well, provides safety, and eliminates cut-through traffic. She did not feel that changes are warranted.

Monta Lane spoke of her personal use of Las Flores Drive and did not favor limiting access to residences and businesses on Las Flores Drive, which she stated is “the nicest road in town.”

Councilmember Talcott moved to approve the proposed traffic safety plan, as presented. Councilmember Meeks seconded.

Discussion addressed:

- Reasoning for the proposed plan
- Effectiveness of the plan in reducing and/or slowing traffic
- Additional speed humps on La Buena Vista
- Possibility that traffic will be increased under the proposed plan
- Costs of implementing the proposed plan
- Size/width of La Buena Vista Drive
- Re-opening of Las Flores and cut-through traffic
- Improvements to the existing cul-de-sac
- Problems associated with large 18-wheeler truck traffic on residential streets, including turning difficulties
- Prohibition of through truck traffic

Mayor Flocke called for a vote as follows: Councilmember Talcott, aye; Councilmember McCullough, nay; Councilmember Meeks, aye; Councilmember Thurber, nay; Councilmember White, aye. Motion carried on a vote of 3-2.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action to reconsider and rescind the City Council action at its meeting on September 1, 2011, regarding the lease of election equipment for the May 12, 2012 City of Wimberley General Election. (*City Administrator*)

Mayor Flocke spoke on the City of Woodcreek’s action to move its general election to November. He stated that Wimberley ISD has not yet acted on this issue. He noted costs associated with leasing voting equipment for May elections versus moving to the November uniform election date.

Discussion addressed:

- Various scenarios of shared/unshared election costs incurred by the City
- Polling places
- November ballot placement for City of Wimberley at discretion of Hays County Elections Administrator

- Ease of voting in May versus November due to differences in voter turnout
- Different political climate in odd- versus even-numbered election years due to federal and state election cycles
- Cost concerns

Councilmember Thurber moved to take no action on this item. Councilmember McCullough seconded. Mayor Flocke provided clarification on the effect of moving elections to November on Council's term lengths and on the City's liability in a runoff/contested election.

Mayor Flocke called for a vote as follows: Councilmember McCullough, aye; Councilmember Meeks, aye; Councilmember Thurber, aye; Councilmember White, aye; Councilmember Talcott, nay. Motion carried on a vote of 4-1.

- C. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the composition of the City of Wimberley Code Review Committee and appointments to the committee. (*City Administrator*)

This item was heard after Agenda Item 6B.

After reviewing the codification process, City Administrator Ferguson presented the Code Review Committee's duties, responsibilities, composition, and strategies. He noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission will be tasked with reviewing the Zoning and Subdivision Codes, while the Code Review Committee's Citizens Review Task Force will review all other ordinances. Both the Task Force and the Planning and Zoning Commission will forward recommendations to Council for consideration and action. All five members of the Committee are to be appointed by consensus of the City Council, with all members being residents of the City, and at least two of the five members being owners/operators of a business within the City. The Committee will meet twice per month (evenings), beginning on October 4, 2011 and include input from various advisory boards and experts. Meeting agendas will be posted and public input is encouraged. The Code Review Committee and Planning and Zoning Commission timeframe for completion was outlined. City Administrator Ferguson suggested consideration of "sunset provisions." Councilmember Talcott recommended development of a checklist to help residents through various permitting processes and City Administrator Ferguson advised that there is a *Frequently Asked Questions* document on the City's website that details the process for obtaining building permits. Councilmember Talcott clarified his role as liaison between City Council and the Code Review Committee.

Discussion addressed:

- Appointment of alternate members
- Possible need to break down Committee work into two groups, if necessary
- Need to encourage consensus among members
- Residency requirements for Committee members
- Recodification process
- Flexible meeting schedule

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented, with additional language requiring that recommendations to Council must be approved by at least a 4-1 vote to encourage consensus and that the meeting schedule remain flexible. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Flocke stated procedures for selecting members to the Code Review Committee and discussion clarified residency requirements for Committee members. Mayor Flocke called for a brief recess to allow Councilmember Talcott to review Committee applications/resumes. Mayor Flocke reconvened the meeting.

Each Council member selected four (4) or five (5) nominees as follows:

MCCULLOUGH	MEEKS	THURBER	WHITE	TALCOTT
Charles Roccaforte	Charles Roccaforte	David Erck	Charles Roccaforte	D'Anna Tindal
Steve Klepfer	D'Anna Tindal	David Estey	Pat Rehmet	Charles Roccaforte
Ed Foster	Pat Rehmet	Steve Klepfer	D'Anna Tindal	Gary Callon
David Estey	Steve Klepfer	Steve White	Paul Xiques	Steve White
Shannon du Plessis			Shannon du Plessis	

Based on the total number of votes received for the following nominees as listed below, Council selected **Charles Roccaforte**, **Steve Klepfer**, and **D'Anna Tindal**:

NOMINEES	# OF VOTES RECEIVED
Charles Roccaforte	4
Steve Klepfer	3
D'Anna Tindal	3
Shannon du Plessis	2
David Estey	2
Pat Rehmet	2
Steve White	2
Gary Callon	1
David Erck	1
Ed Foster	1
Paul Xiques	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>

To determine the remaining two (2) Committee members, each Council member selected two (2) nominees from those who received two (2) votes, as listed below:

TALCOTT	MCCULLOUGH	MEEKS	THURBER	WHITE
Pat Rehmet	Shannon du Plessis	Pat Rehmet	David Estey	Pat Rehmet
Steve White	David Estey	Steve White	Steve White	Steve White

Based on the total number of votes received for the following remaining nominees as listed below, Council selected **Pat Rehmet** and **Steve White**.

NOMINEES	# OF VOTES RECEIVED
Shannon du Plessis	1
David Estey	2
Pat Rehmet	3
Steve White	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	10

City Administrator Ferguson announced the following roster of newly appointed members of the Code Review Committee (in alphabetical order): **Steve Klepfer, Pat Rehmet, Charles Roccaforte, D'Anna Tindal, and Steve White.**

- D. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposed Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation relating to the Ranch Road 12/Old Kyle Road Improvement project. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson requested that this item be continued until Council's special meeting on September 21, 2011 to allow for receipt of clarification from TxDOT legal counsel.

Councilmember Thurber moved to continue the item, as requested. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- E. Discuss and consider approval of a designation plan for the Fund Balance of the City of Wimberley. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson recommended the following allocation for the coming fiscal year, which is the same allocation used in the current fiscal year:

- 40% of the funds for public works (roads, drainage, etc.)
- 25% of the funds for future grant matches
- 35% of the funds for wastewater improvements

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember White seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- F. Discuss and consider approval of the City of Wimberley Investment Policy. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson explained that State law requires Council review of the policy on an annual basis. No changes to the policy are proposed at this time and staff recommended approval.

Councilmember Talcott moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember Meeks seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- G. Discuss and consider possible action setting the dates for two (2) upcoming city-wide clean ups. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson recommended scheduling the two (2) clean up days for Saturday, November 12, 2011 and Saturday, April 28, 2012.

Councilmember Meeks moved to approve the item, as recommended. Councilmember Thurber seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- H. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a request to allow one (1) temporary on-premise sign to help direct traffic, during road construction, to two (2) business locations on Ranch Road 12 near its intersection with FM 32. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson recommended approval of the request to allow one (1) temporary on-premise sign at 9315 Ranch Road 12 to help direct traffic to two businesses located near the intersection of Ranch Road 12 and FM 32. The two businesses, a convenience store and feed store, have encountered difficulties communicating to the public that their businesses are open, due to various traffic detours associated with the Ranch Road 12 improvement project. The shared sign would be an unlighted, changeable sign, approximately sixteen (16) square feet in size, to be removed when the improvement work is completed.

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- I. Discuss and consider possible action regarding plans for a Friends of Blue Hole fund raising event on October 8, 2011 at the Blue Hole Regional Park. (*Steve Klepfer, Friends of Blue Hole*)

This item was heard after Agenda Item 3.

Steve Klepfer reported on the fundraising event's date/time/location, activities, food (including beer/wine), entertainment, and honorees. He noted that all proceeds go toward the Park and asked for Council's assistance by approving plans for the event, including providing the tram and

needed park staff. He noted ticket sales locations and payment methods and encouraged attendance. City Administrator Ferguson recommended approval of the event plans.

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember White seconded. Councilmember Talcott asked if the event complies with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code (TABC) requirements. City Administrator Ferguson responded affirmatively. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

## 8. City Council Reports

- Announcements
- Future Agenda Items

This item was heard after Agenda Item 7H.

City Administrator Ferguson reminded that a special Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

As a future agenda item, Councilmember Thurber requested discussion of the Water Conservation Ordinance update.

As a future agenda item, Mayor Flocke requested discussion of the Sign Ordinance review/public meeting. City Administrator Ferguson advised that a workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2011.

Hearing no further announcements or future agenda items, Mayor Flocke called the meeting adjourned.

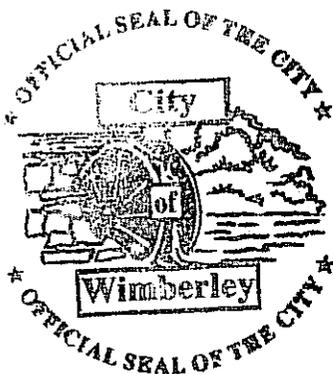
**Adjournment:** Council meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Recorded by:

*Cara McPartland*

Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 6th of October, 2011.



**APPROVED:**

*Bob Flocke*

**Bob Flocke, Mayor**

9-6-11

JUAN VERIATO

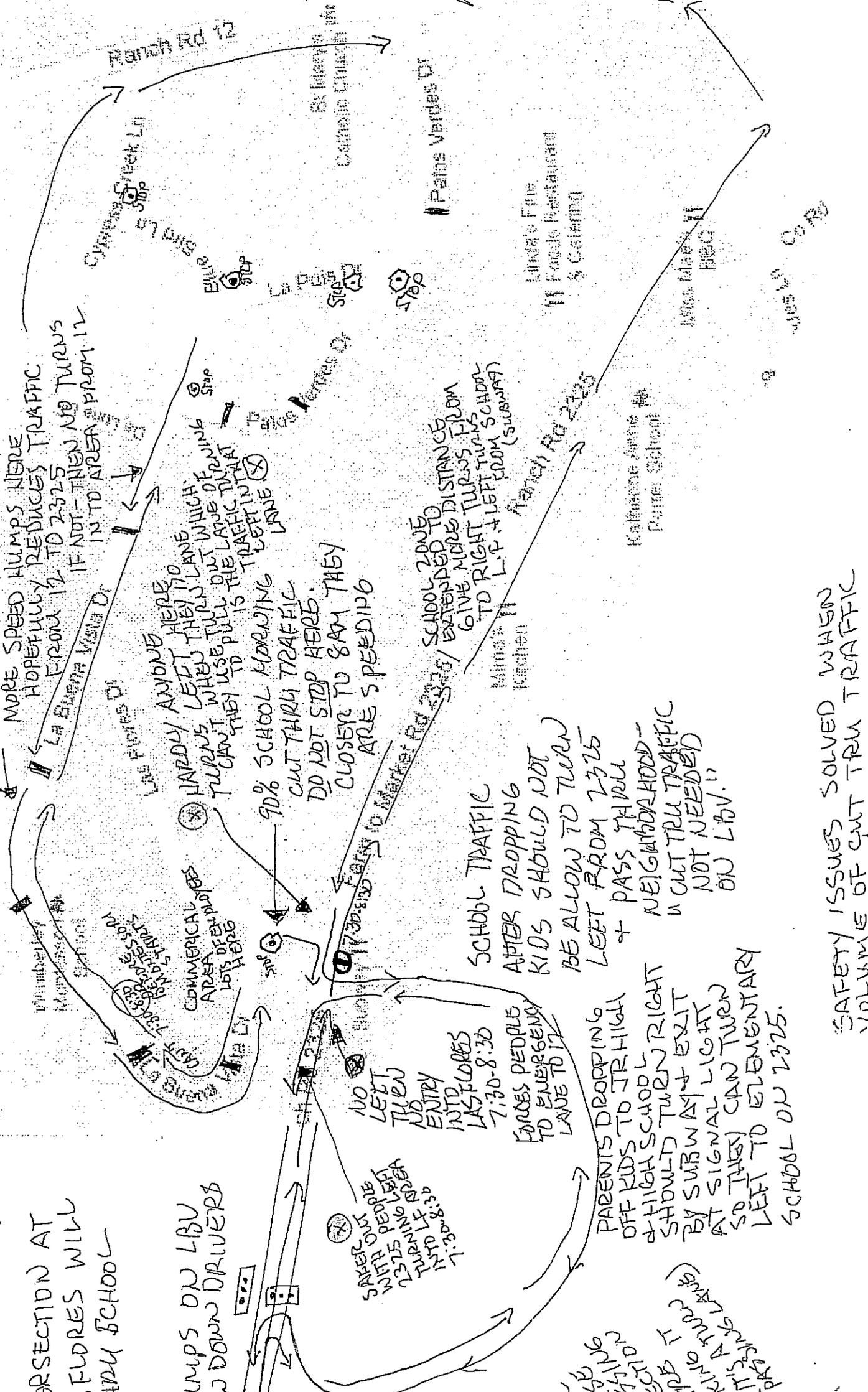
CHANGING INTERSECTION AT 2325 AND LAS FLORES WILL REMOVE CUT THRU SCHOOL TRAFFIC.

ADDING SPEED HUMPS ON LBU CURVE WILL SLOW DOWN DRIVERS FOR SAFETY

MOST VEHICLES ARE LARGE SUV'S & TRUCKS - ROADS PRESENT MADE NOW WIDE ENOUGH FOR VEHICLES TO PASS SAFELY

NUMBER LANE UNDER WITH 5 UNDER ROAD'S NEW PARENTS HARDLY USE TO DRIVE WITH DRIVERS DRIVING IT SLOWLY IN THIS LANE THIS IS A PROBLEM WITH CUT THRU TRAFFIC BEING A PROBLEM WITH LANE NOT A PROBLEM

SOLUTION TO REDUCE MORE TRAFFIC AND SAVED 28 000.00 YELON INTERSECTION IS THE KEY TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY



MORE SPEED HUMPS HERE HOPEFULLY REDUCES TRAFFIC FROM 12 TO 2325 IF NOT - THEN NO TURNS IN TO AREA FROM 12

ANYONE WHO LEFT HERE TO TURN WHEN THEY TURN LEFT THEY USE PULL THE LAKE THAT IS TRAFFIC THAT IS LEFT IN LANE

90% SCHOOL MORNING CUT THRU TRAFFIC DO NOT STOP HERE. CLOSER TO 8AM THEY ARE SPEEDING

SCHOOL TRAFFIC AFTER DROPPING KIDS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOW TO TURN LEFT FROM 2325 + PASS THRU NEIGHBORHOOD - CUT THRU TRAFFIC NOT NEEDED ON LBU.

PARENTS DROPPING OFF KIDS TO JR HIGH SHOULD TURN RIGHT BY SUBWAY EXIT AT SIGNAL LIGHT SO THEY CAN TURN LEFT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON 2325.

NO LEFT TURN INTO ENTRY INTO LAST FLORES 7:30-8:30 FORCES PEOPLE TO EMERGENCY LANE TO 12

SAFER WAY WITH PEOPLE TURNING LEFT INTO 2325 7:30-8:30

SCHOOL TRAFFIC EXTENDED TO GIVE MORE DISTANCE TO RIGHT TURNS FROM L.P. A LEFT TURNS SCHOOL (SUBWAY)

SAFETY ISSUES SOLVED WHEN VOLUME OF CUT THRU TRAFFIC COMES DOWN

As owner of Wimberley Ace hardware I am very concerned with this closure.. History has shown our parking lot is a cut through between RR12 & 2325.. We are already congested and land locked with no options to improve our parking..(Mr. Warlick is not interested in selling his land and the city restrictions would all but keep us from expanding our parking anyway) We have noted through experience over many years that many of our citizens would rather not deal with the traffic light or the stop signs that control the flow of traffic on either side of the store.. They find it easier for them to cut through our parking lot.. Our community has suffered the death of one of our own in a parking lot in recent years and I am concerned about the increased possibility of any kind of accident and especially a loss of a life due to increased traffic in our parking lot.. That being our foremost concern, the other is with an increase in congestion in the Ace parking lot our customers will simply avoid the inconvenience and take their shopping dollars elsewhere.. With the economy as it is and spending down buy all of us (not including the Government) sales have been declining for over two years now and seem to be leveling off at this point.. We have been able to manage our business efficiently enough..to not have terminated any employees or reduced anyone's pay and we have forgotten what a pay raise is like.. With the possibility of a negative impact on our business we are understandably concerned..

That road is NOT a "shortcut"....it is simply "the way I go to town" especially if my business is anywhere this side of the Exxon!! It's absurd; why would I drive all the way to the "Y" at Ace to cut back to go to my bank (or the Exxon for that matter)? It's also the way I go to pay my water bill for crying out loud! If I have business on this side of Wimberley (around the Exxon area) I go that way because that's where I'm going! If I am going to Brookshire I don't go that way. What a bunch of rubbish.

Where does Flocke live? Does he seriously think that appeasing the few residents along there will outweigh angering the rest of us that drive that route? Maybe he'll see at voting time!

It's like saying that the road by Wimberley Winery (at the passing lanes on RR12) is a 'short cut' to Mopac (through Driftwood). If you're going to that side of town when visiting Austin that's just the way you go.

So how did this even come about? A few loud residents complained? They are simply feeling the growth like everyone else in our town and they don't want the cars passing by their house. It's like folks that buy property near an airport and then complain about the airplane noise!

I have talked to several people in your neighborhood and a person on the traffic advisory group and have found no one that wants the roads closed! I haven't talked to any one who was rude. And why are people so down on you! Is it because you speak your mind?!?! Hmmm!

You know I live on Jacobs Well Rd. and would like that closed, too, because people go 55 or 60 or sometimes 70 down a road that is posted 35mph. I have seen a serious wreck in front of my house, several wrecks off the low water crossing including a man that flipped his motorcycle into the creek and died! I have had people knock on my door late @ night that ran into the creek and got stuck, several people stop in my driveway to fix flat tires including a sheriff. I can't even ride my bicycle any more because I am afraid someone will hit me! The list goes on and on. I will be at the meeting!

I am pleased to hear that you share that speed humps may be our solution to this problem. If this is the case then a mutually satisfactory solution can be reached regarding speeding cars/trucks on La Buena Vista/ Las Flores Drive using speed humps. I am willing to work with you to make this happen.

Keep Las Flores OPEN:

1. There are no suitable alternatives to re-route traffic if it (Las Flores) is closed. Wimberley is not a hub and spoke or grid master planned community. We must preserve the few traffic thoroughfares we have.

2. There will be a large increase in traffic congestion on Emergency Lane and the FM 2325 and Ranch Rd 12 intersection.

3. Put in sidewalks on Las Flores to increase safety for pedestrians.

4. Speeding on Las Flores is the main safety concern. Write tickets, more tickets and still more. Regular users will soon get the message.

5. Install cameras if necessary.

6. How will emergency vehicles gain access to the people in need? They too will have to be re-routed.

7. The Las Flores to Texan Blvd "intersection" needs to be fixed if Las Flores stays open or is closed. Closing Las Flores does not eliminate that problem.

8. Avoid the expense of purchasing property for truck turnarounds and endpoint (the midway point of Las Flores) construction.

9. While I empathize with homeowners that live along Las Flores, I believe most of them purchased their property with full knowledge of existing school locations and were under no duress to purchase along a highly trafficked route.

10. People that live on Las Flores and adjacent areas will be inconvenienced by being re-routed adding significantly to the distance they have to travel and also adding to the increased traffic pressure on the main arteries of RR 12 and FM 2325.

11. Has a traffic volume study been conducted?

12. Let's not screw it up for future generations. Imagine the traffic 20-30 years from now. Where will people go? The Y will be a bottleneck. Road rage will create more safety concerns than you can imagine. Emergency vehicles will be stymied.

13. While it may be obvious from my previous comments; I feel it is necessary to emphasize the fact that it is difficult to maneuver through and around Wimberley as it is. The river and creek create impassible obstacles. The hills add still more physical obstacles. The community is a composite of dead ends and winding trails with no plans for 21st century traffic. Funneling all of our traffic into the Y will surely anger not only the residents of Wimberley but also the many visitors whom we depend on. Charm is measured by physical beauty, unique atmosphere, hospitality, attractive shopping options, wonderful events, etc. Charm can also be threatened by lack of suitable infrastructure. Things like traffic problems and inconvenient parking will negatively impact our community. Look at what it's done to Oak Hill. I refuse to drive through that community now unless it's late at night with no traffic.

Do we have a master plan to create an efficient hub and spoke transportation system? I would love to keep Wimberley a village and shut the gates but we must also be responsible. Perhaps somebody can shed some light upon this issue that I haven't imagined that will be persuasive enough for me to change my mind. But I haven't seen the argument yet. Somebody please enlighten me. Seems there is very little logic or common sense with the proposal to shut down Las Flores. Keep Las Flores OPEN!

Mayor Flocke quoted in the Wimberley View: "I am in favor for the neighbors. They deserve a quiet street and I'm willing to give it to them." Doesn't this neighborhood and the rest of the "city" deserve speed limit enforcement? Is it more important for the city to have purchased a new building and paid cash for than to pay the salary of a city marshall, who would in-turn, generate his own salary through fines? The "city" decided we did not need a city marshall. Did any of you have any input into this decision?

How many more neighborhoods could request that street be closed off? Woodcreek Drive, River Road, Flite Acres? Don't they all have problems with people speeding and deserve a quiet street?

Closing the street and causing traffic flow problems at the RR12, FM2325 and Emergency Lane area is not the answer.

Doesn't the city have a responsibility to provide law enforcement and safety to its citizen, the people who voted for them? Call or e-mail the councilmen (who have the votes) and please come to the public meeting at the Community Center, 6pm Tuesday, June 29th. Let's get some answers and hope there is enough common sense and logic on this council to make decisions that will benefit all of us.

This just infuriates me....how can Flocke justify that...and the city marshall's salary was cheaper then the new location they paid cash for....grrrrr And the sheriff's dept and the constable Ayers needs to tell his guys to enforce the law....they are sooooo afraid of not being elected....WE NEED A MARSHALL or a city cop

This is BS. If they close Las Flores then they need to close 1492! We deserve a quiet neighborhood too. Who ever came up with the idea of closing it is obviously in favor of the city. I live on 1492 and have to deal with much more than just people speeding in front of my house. Unfortunatly that is the price you pay for living on a road that connects two major streets. What is the city thinking?

If you follow thru with the proposed closing of Las Flores Dr. you are creating a gated community for just a select few. We all pay our taxes for the use of the public roads in Wimberley and elsewhere. If the few who are proposing this road be closed want a private gated sub-division then they should move to one and pay the P.O.A. association dues to maintain them.

I hope all council members and Our new Mayor have had time to rethink this and will use their knowledge and common sense to vote that the road remain as is. We all knew this road was here and the use of it when we bought our properties I don't see the need for changing it.

As for the suggestion that some have made to put in sidewalks for again a select few I object to that also. There are a lot of more serious pending issues the city should address and find a resolution to before some of these smaller projects are considered. With the economy what it is today and not much of a bright future to look forward to anytime soon we all should be putting our money into what we need most. We voted for each and every one of you to keep that in mind not for just the good of a few but for the betterment of the Whole Community.

I TRUST ALL OF YOU TO CONSIDER ALL OF US HERE IN WIMBERLEY WHEN MAKING THIS DECISION OR ANY OTHERS IN THE FUTURE. VOTES DO COUNT AND ALL OF YOU WILL WANT OUR VOTE AGAIN. THINKING AND CARING FOR ALL OF US WILL BE CONSIDERED WHEN IT COMES ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

I agree with you about the closing of Las Flores. Same thing happened in Woodcreek with the closing of the gate on Augusta to Jacobs Well Road. More than ever traffic on Brookmeadow and Woodcreek Drive. I see someone has made their own drive off Jacobs Well by removing a panel of 6' fencing from their back lot. Now they have created their own shortcut.

Closing streets that we all paid for is not the answer. The speed needs to be enforced and citizens reminded to obey the laws.

Unless the city can provide another route.....I don't think they should close roads where there is inadequate traffic flow routes.....just to please a few residents.....just does not seem right or fair.....should be given long and hard consideration.

all they have to do is put in speed bumps and make sidewalks....I agree

It's just crazy! Why does the town and the majority of residents keep having to pay to please a few? Can't put up signs promoting music, can't play music outside after 10:30, can't use a street taxpayers paid for to keep from having backed-up traffic.....or not being able to get anywhere!!

Whose idea was this anyway? If the city doesn't want to enforce speed limits on city streets, should we never have incorporated? wth

This question should be about all of Wimberley, not just a few in one neighborhood. If the problem is speeders, get the city to enforce the speed limit. If the problem is that you feel unsafe walking, ask the city to build a sidewalk. Someone made the remark that it's "only" 46 seconds out of the way to go around via the stoplight by Ace...maybe, with no traffic, but even if it is 46 seconds at all times are you willing to risk your life on the difference, because EMS may take longer to get to you or a loved one. This whole thing has simply not been thought through by those who want it. I am encouraged that city is holding a hearing on matter, indicating that perhaps they don't have their minds made up. I trust they will listen to everyone, not just a couple. We all have a stake in this. Show up June 29.

We all should be able to live and play safely near our homes, but should streets that are public right of ways be closed to keep us safe? Speed limits should be enforced and sidewalks built. Closing the road is the easy and cheapest way out for the city!

Yes, I think it's going to be a big mess if Las Flores is closed. I really think respect for the neighborhood and driving down any residential street is the key. Drive the street as you would have others drive down your street. Put up a couple of those cameras that take folks license plates down and mail them a ticket! lol. I do however think the intersection of Las Flores and Texan Blvd. needs fixing. A four way stop maybe...I don't like to say it but, maybe even another stoplight.

It is .6 miles across Las Flores, it is almost 1.2 miles to go around (almost double) not to mention the constant stalled traffic at the Green Acres stop light during school months. With the double actual mileage and the significant "waiting time" at the already over crowded intersections the carbon footprint and air pollution caused by the induced congestion will probably increase by a factor of four or five. The city's blunt trauma approach shows a definite lack of creativity.

Las Flores was obviously never designed nor constructed as a pedestrian throughway. Bought and paid for by all the citizens, it just seems crazy to take away the transportation rights of hundreds to provide for the recreational pleasure of a few. Perhaps the neighborhood could organize and create a walking trail off of the pavement on the edge of the properties affected. In the town where I grew up, the sidewalks were provided and maintained by the owners of the properties involved.

*I am hearing a lot of versions from council and citizens as to why the City Marshall was not replaced and would like to know the truth.*

*One of the versions I heard was that Councilman Appleman suggested that Wimberley didn't need a City Marshall and the city could not afford his salary.*

*Another version is that the city was \$40,000 short in being able to pay cash for the new building and decided to get the necessary funds by eliminating the City Marshall.*

*Another version is that the town didn't need and the citizens didn't want a town marshall. If this is the case, I'd like to know who "the town" is and who made the decision.*

*Thanks and I appreciate you answering this question so I can put some of the rumors to rest. ~  
Madonna*

I'm glad to set rumors to rest.

First, I am an elected representative of the citizens of what we now call the "city" of Wimberley and help comprise the city council. The simple answer to your question is that the city council voted to approve a budget two years ago that included funds for a city marshal and all of the related expenses associated with the marshal. The city administrator then used those funds to implement hiring a city marshal, buying a car, other equipment, training, etc., etc. Last year the City Council in a unanimous vote approved of a budget that eliminated that position and the related expenses. There were three months of meetings associated with the budget that was open to the public which any citizen could have participated in.

I feel the biggest rumor that needs to be clarified regards the city budget and taxes. I have heard from people who live in the city, as well as outside the city, that "we pay taxes and the city needs to do blah blah blah." The fact is that the city collects no property tax. Unless you shop locally, you are not contributing to the city revenues. When Wimberley incorporated the primary obligation that the city took over from the county was to maintain the streets, and those pushing for incorporation made an implied promise that they could do that without implementing a property tax. After ten years we finally conducted a survey of the streets that show it will cost 5 million dollars to bring the roads up to an acceptable minimum standard. This still means dealing with one lane roads, no sidewalks, dead end streets with no turnaround and a host of other safety issues that would not be acceptable in other communities. If we spent our entire revenue for the next six years solely on street repair we might be close to meeting that minimum street standard.

Outside of throwing some hot mix at some potholes, the city has ignored our streets over the last seven years. This allowed them to build up a million dollar reserve. There was no shortfall in cash. We used a portion of that reserve to purchase city hall in a cost saving move that should save us \$60,000/year that is approximately the amount that we now have to pay in deficit funding for the community center after the "seniors" decided not to keep their originally promised obligation of being responsible for the operation and finances of this endeavor.

The city council currently has the obligation to separate wants from needs, and prioritize those needs with the limited budget we are given. I would be more than happy to vote for a city marshal, sidewalks, community centers, swimming pools and a host of other worthwhile projects that the city could undertake if the citizens of this community are willing to champion paying for it with an ad valorem tax. Right now we just don't have the money. I asked to have public meetings six months ago to discuss alternative sources of funding, but unfortunately those running for office didn't want to discuss this issue during an election. I thought it was the perfect time to discuss it.

I respect you and your right to champion keeping Los Flores and La Buena Vista open. If I lived where you do, I would probably do the same. I look forward to discussions on this matter at the community meeting on this subject, and realize that this is an emotional issue. I still hope that we can deal with facts.

All good points that you should bring up at the meeting. We have absolutely no way to enforce speed limits, and everyone knows it. That's why they speed. We had a marshal whose presence in neighborhoods slowed down traffic considerably, but the public demanded that we get rid of him. So we did. ~ Bob Flocke

*The public demanded the city get rid of a city marshal? Why? I had not heard that and would like to know more about it. What I am hearing is that the city felt it too expensive to have a city marshal for citizen protection, but could pay cash for their office building.*

*So you're saying the speed limit is a complete joke? Why can't it be enforced by Hays Co. deputies? Is it because it's an illegal speed? Then if that's the case, maybe that needs to be looked at before the real issue is swept under the rug and the street closed off. ~ Madonna*

Yes, Yes, Yes.

You heard wrong. Getting rid of the marshal was dumb. The marshal's position had no impact on the city's budget. It paid for itself in fines. The feedback that the city received was that the town didn't need and the citizens didn't want a town marshal.

The speed limit is not illegal, it's just one that state and county law enforcement will not enforce. A municipality is the only entity that will enforce or impose any speed limit under the state enforcement minimum of 30 mph, except for school zones. The 25 mph speed limit predates the city and must have been imposed by the local residents because the county would never have put such a speed limit in place. I suggested raising the speed limit to 30 five years ago, and it was a non-starter with the neighborhood.

A public meeting to discuss the proposed closure of Las Flores and La Buena Vista Drives will be held at the Wimberley Community Center on Tuesday, June 29 at 6:00 p.m.

City officials scheduled the meeting to allow residents the opportunity to comment on the proposed closure of the popular cut-through between RR 12 and FM 2325. Some residents of the neighborhood, complaining of the volume and speed of traffic through the north Wimberley residential neighborhood, requested that speed humps be installed or that the route be permanently closed.

Neighborhood residents have clamored for action for years; first from the Hays County Commissioners Court and later from the city of Wimberley. They complain that the high volume of traffic and the speeds at which vehicles traverse the neighborhood make the streets of this residential area unsafe. Residents approached the city council in May and asked that the city consider the installation of speed humps as traffic-calming devices. As an alternative, several members of City Council suggested a mid-block closure of Las Flores Drive at La Buena Vista to eliminate the problem with thru-traffic and to help slow down traffic.

Officials of Wimberley EMS and the Fire Department were consulted and had no objections to the proposed closure.

From: Stephanie Reynolds [REDACTED]  
Subject: Special Meeting  
Date: September 6, 2011 5:24 PM  
To: Home [REDACTED]

Special Meeting  
Tuesday, September 6, 2011

I would like to thank the City Council and Mayor Flocke for re-visiting the safety issues regarding Las Flores and La Buena Vista.

I would personally like to thank Councilmen Talcott for bringing this issue up as an agenda item and for taking such diligent measures to ensure the safety and equality of the residents who live there.

I feel that any action Council takes that will effect our residents or the potential to effect their property values "and/or" property rights, Council should take into consideration several factors prior to voting.

Council Should:

Be in accordance with Wimberley's own Ordinances and Codes.

That we conform to State, Federal and Constitutional laws.

That the Texas Fire Code, Transportation Code and Safety codes be followed.

That sound professional engineering studies are conducted as well as taking impact analysis studies of property's effected by said actions of the Council.

That our Transportation Advisory Board (whose purpose is to assist and direct our local government in transportation matters), are in agreement with the proposed actions of the City Council.

I believe all this information should be discussed and reviewed at our City Council meetings.

Wimberley residents should be able to play an active and informed role in those critical decisions that so greatly effect their lives.

Councilmen Talcott's proposal, has done just that. He has contacted the proper agencies and entities.

He has approval and agreement from our Transportation Advisory Board. He has made himself available to residents in the neighborhood and listened to their concerns regarding pedestrian safety.

He has proposed solutions for traffic volume, by giving drivers an open, multi-option plan. This will relieve congestion and traffic volume that previous measures failed to address.

He has proposed a new "15mph - school zone" speed limit as well as several speed humps placed closer together for Las Flores and La Buena Vista. This will maintain slower speed, even if we do not have enforcement.

He has proposed weight limits on large vehicles entering and exiting our neighborhood. This will protect our safety and the quality of our roads.

Although the testimony and opinions of our citizens are of great importance and vital, it should by no means, be the only criteria, involved when addressing issues of such magnitude.

By having a uniform set of guidelines in place, such as Mr. Talcott used in the creation of his proposal, we benefit greatly. Not just as citizens and residents, but also as a growing, thriving Community.

I am very impressed and excited about this proposal. I believe it addresses all the pertinent issues at hand.

This is democracy at it's best!

Thank you Councilmen Talcott for this proposal

and thank you Mayor and Councilmen for respecting our opinions, freedoms and Democratic process.

Stephanie Reynolds  
Las Flores resident

September 5, 2011

Donald & Rebecca Black  
38 La Buena Vista Dr.  
Wimberley, Texas

Wimberley City Hall  
Mayor and City Council Members  
P.O. Box 2027  
Wimberley, Texas

Dear Sir:

My wife and I have lived at 38 La Buena Vista Drive for 22 years. Like most residents of Wimberley and other residential buyers in this country, we observed certain things about the residence that we bought before we decided to buy. The old adage used by real estate agents, location, location and location are as relevant now as they were in 1989. We tried to consider various factors relating to the purchase and one of these factors was traffic patterns in the area. Our children were older at that time, but the lack of traffic in the area was one of the deciding factors. We understand that traffic has increased in Wimberley, just like it has through out most of the nation. Any area that grows will experience increased traffic and that is understandable, but the decision to close Las Flores Drive funneled all traffic in the neighborhood in front of our home.

We now find ourselves in the position of having seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The majority of them live in this general area and visit us on a regular basis. Four of these children are under eleven years of age. They are taught to play in the yard and to stay out of the street, but like all children they are likely to make bad decisions from time to time. The increased traffic on La Buena Vista Drive, due to the closure of Las Flores Drive has given us concern for the safety of our grandkids and great-grandkids. It is our understanding that the safety factor of children living on Las Flores Drive was one of the arguments made for it's closure. The risk for children at our home and the private school on La Buena Vista is just as significant.

We are not writing this letter to make accusations related to anyone at city hall. We are writing this letter to try to get an equitable resolution that has divided our neighborhood. According to the online dictionary relating to public officials. a city councilman or woman is an elected legislative official who is elected to represent a constituency or voters at large. Their duties are to oversee city agencies/programs and to determine if and how money is being budgeted optimally. The use of public funds begins with the principle that public funds must be expended for an authorized purpose. An expenditure is made for a public purpose when it's purpose is to benefit the public interest rather than private individuals or private purposes. We believe that it would be a stretch of the definition to believe that the expenditure of the public funds to rebuild Las Flores Drive and then

close it off as a through road would fit the clause for the benefit of the public interest.

It stands to reason that traffic that used to travel from RR12 down Las Flores Drive to the Blanco Highway diverted through La Buena Vista Drive has increased the traffic in front of our home. We do not need a traffic counter to see the difference, just since the closure of Las Flores, and that traffic will increase as the population of Wimberley increases. We can only submit an opinion and that opinion is that the neighbors that bought homes on Las Flores Drive should have been diligent in observing traffic patterns before buying. We believe that it is unfair that we be punished for due diligence on buying a residence in an area that had very little traffic to appease those that bought on Las Flores. Las Flores drive was a busy street, when we bought on La Buena Vista 22 years ago.

Due to the expenditure of the public funds to rebuild Las Flores Drive, it stands to reason that the new road is a safer route for increased traffic flow than the crooked old La Buena Vista Drive. I personally have witnessed near head on collisions on the curve on La Buena Vista behind the church and businesses that front on the Blanco Highway. I believe that it is just a matter of time until someone is injured in that near 90 degree turn.

We believe that the closure of Las Flores Drive sets a dangerous precedent for future complaints from Wimberley residents relating to traffic problems within their neighborhoods. We also believe that in a city the size of Wimberley, who tries to maintain it's small town charm by referring to itself as a village, the proposed one way streets are not needed. However, if that is the only option to equalize the traffic flow on Las Flores and La Buena Vista, we can learn to live with it.

In conclusion, the citizens of Wimberley should have the expectation to be able to drive on a street improvement project in which the city spent somewhere between \$125,000 to \$230,000, depending on who you are talking to at the time. We can understand improvements to the drainage in an area that needs it for the benefit of the residents of that particular area, but the expenditure made on a public street should be a through street and should be available for all the residents of Wimberley and visitors to utilize to get from point A to point B. We urge the mayor and city council to open Las Flores as a through street for the benefit of the general public that they serve in their elected capacity.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Black



Rebecca A. Black



June 23, 2010

Donald & Rebecca Black  
P.O. Box 797  
Wimberley, Texas

Wimberley City Hall  
City Administrator-  
Don Ferguson  
P.O. Box 2027  
Wimberley, Texas

Dear Sir:

My wife and I have lived at 38 La Buena Vista Drive for over 20 years. We strongly object to the proposed blocking of Las Flores Drive at the intersection to La Buena Vista. This intersection is within 100 feet of our southeastern property line. In other words, we would end up in the Las Flores/La Buena Vista circle. We believe, or I should say we know, that this road closure would be very inconvenient and time consuming for us as well as most of the other residents of the Wimberley Valley. It would be a great inconvenience for us to travel to the Wimberley Water office, the Post Office, our bank and other businesses in that area, as well as access to the Dripping Springs/Austin area. Everyone in Wimberley knows the nightmare of traffic during market days and other events held in that area and downtown. We also know the problems involved in accessing the Blanco Highway at the Las Flores intersection during the WISD sessions. This proposed closure would force us to use this intersection during all of these peak traffic periods.

I am well aware of the speeding problems on Las Flores and La Buena Vista, even in front of our home which is not on the cut through. We have observed this problem for 20 years. I do not have information relating to traffic accidents on this roadway as a result of speeding, but my guess is that it is not excessive. The most dangerous part of this cut through, in my opinion, are the three way stop signs, that were erected, then removed and then put in place again. I have observed more near collisions, due to failure to stop at that intersection, than anywhere else on the roadway.

It appears to me that this is a law enforcement problem and should be addressed as such, and does not warrant closure of a street that is beneficial to everyone that drives in Wimberley. Even though the local newspapers have stated that Wimberley EMS and other emergency responders have no problem with the road closure, common sense will tell you that under certain circumstances response time to this neighborhood will be diminished.

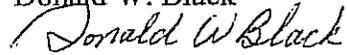
Even though we feel for the residents that believe their quality of life is diminished by cars speeding in front of their homes, we do not believe that this is a valid reason for closing off this roadway. We believe that it is unfair to punish all of the residents in this neighborhood as well as everyone living and driving in Wimberley, for the actions of a few speeders that should be given

speeding tickets. We also realize that traffic has increased in the last 20 years on this cut through, just like it has in Wimberley, Austin, San Antonio and the state of Texas. With the increased traffic comes increased traffic law infractions, but they should be dealt with as traffic law infractions instead of limiting access to the local neighborhood residents and general public.

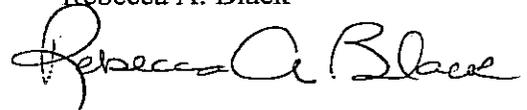
Again, we strongly oppose the proposal to block this roadway within our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Black



Rebecca A. Black



Donald W. Black  
P.O. Box 797  
38 La Buena Vista Dr.  
Wimberley, Tx.  
July 28, 2010

City of Wimberley  
221 Stillwater  
P.O. Box 2027  
Wimberley, Tx.  
78676

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is written, to the Mayor and City Council Members, in regard to the road construction and scheduled closing of Las Flores Drive at the intersection with La Buena Vista Drive.

On June 29, 2010, a public hearing was held at the Wimberley Community Center to allow interested parties to voice opinions on the proposed closing of the 500 block of La Buena Vista Drive where it intersects with the Las Flores Drive. I was unable to attend, but did write a letter to Don Ferguson, City Manager, as per instructions included with the neighborhood resident notification sent out by the city. My wife and I were opposed to this proposal, due to the fact that it would limit our access into and out of the neighborhood as well as impede emergency vehicles.

Within a couple of days of the June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the city council voted to not make the closure as proposed. This was reported in the local newspapers and mention was made of the construction of speed bumps to try to control speeders.

Shortly thereafter, road barriers were erected and construction began on Las Flores and on the RR12 end of the road improvement project. A few days ago, the local newspapers reported that the city council had voted to close Las Flores drive at the intersection with La Buena Vista. This decision was made without any notification to the neighborhood to allow interested parties to voice opinions. Unless of course, we were inadvertently left off of the mailing list for another public hearing. It should be noted that this decision was reported in the local newspapers, after construction had started.

I addressed this letter to whom it may concern and I would submit that every resident in the Wimberley city limits and every other person who drives the streets of Wimberley should be concerned. Apparently the city council is smarter than the majority of Wimberley residents. I feel like the original negative vote was due to the residents opinions in the original open meeting, but the city council, in their infinite wisdom, decided to reverse their original decision and close the street against the will of what I believe to be the majority of Wimberley residents. I wonder how many other residents would like to have their street closed because of the traffic that travels in front of their home.

Evidently Washington politics has arrived in Wimberley. The Mayor and City Councilmen are elected to represent the will of the majority of the community. For many years, Washington politics has represented the will of Washington politicians and not the people. Perhaps that is what is going on here.

The Wimberley City Council has decided to make Las Flores Drive a dead-end street with a cul-de-sac at the intersection with La Buena Vista. This will allow us access to RR12 and RR2325, as we wanted, but it will route all of the traffic in front of our home, and in front of a private school with small children being delivered and picked up. Consequently, this will not provide a solution to the speeding problem, it will just move it onto another street.

My wife and I opposed the closing of La Buena Vista at Las Flores originally because it would limit our access. We also oppose the closing of Las Flores Drive with the cul-de-sac, but not because of the increased traffic flow in front of our home. We understand traffic. As more and more people move to Wimberley, traffic will increase.

The primary reason that we oppose the current city plan is the lack of fiscal responsibility. Both Las Flores and La Buena Vista Drives needed major road repairs, due to the amount of traffic flow. I do not know the cost figures, but under the current plan, the city is spending thousands of dollars to construct a private driveway for the residents on Las Flores Drive. It is for the use of the residents of 12-15 homes on Las Flores. These thousands of dollars are going on a dead end street, a road to nowhere except the driveways of these residents. The expenditures of tax money on Las Flores Drive is for them alone and not to in any way better serve the community.

The Wimberley City Council has proven that they are going to do what they determine to be best for the Wimberley residents, without regard to other opinions and without utilizing money for the best interest of the community. That should sound familiar to anyone that takes note of state and Washington politics.

Evidently they do not believe that road improvements should be made to roads that the majority of Wimberley residents can use. As usual, the only recourse that we have in local, state and national politics is to cast a vote. Next election I know that I will remember who voted for and against the expenditures for the road to nowhere.

We, as voters, have two choices. We can either go along as sheep and accept without question any and all decisions made by our governing bodies, or we can at least speak up in opposition to proposals, when given the opportunity. The city council did not give us the opportunity to speak up when they took the vote to close Las Flores, so I am sending copies of this opinion letter to any and all local newspapers that are willing to read it.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Black

*Donald W. Black*

Rebecca A. Black

*Rebecca A. Black*

## Don Ferguson

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**From:** Don Ferguson [dferguson@cityofwimberley.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 11:55 AM  
**To:** 'Don Ferguson'; 'Bob Flocke'; place1@cityofwimberley.com; place2@cityofwimberley.com; 'Matt Meeks'; place4@cityofwimberley.com; place5@cityofwimberley.com  
**Subject:** FW: Meeting Regarding Opening Las Flores Drive

At the request of the sender, I am forwarding this message to members of Council.

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**From:** David DiTraglia [mailto:████████████████████]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2011 12:41 PM  
**To:** Don Ferguson  
**Subject:** Meeting Regarding Opening Las Flores Drive

Don,  
Please see that this email is read to the Council and entered in tonight's meeting comments.  
Thank you, David

Dear Mayor Flocke and Council Members:

Due to health concerns I will not be able to participate in the meetings and neither will Vance Hobbs my next door neighbor at 13 Las Flores so this email represents both of our feelings. Mr. Hobbs suffered a massive stroke at the beginning of this year. I have lived at 15 Las Flores Drive for 18 years and Mr. Hobbs has been here for over 27 years. When we moved here, Las Flores Drive was merely a sleepy drive emptying the subdivision. Over the years we has watched the traffic increase in volume and speed to an untenable situation. This drive was never intended to be a "cut-through" . If it was a "cut-through" then it would have been made straighter and the residential neighborhood would not be so close to it.

Mr. Hobbs and I support the Council's standing decision about a year ago to close the drive. The neighborhood has improved, the overall volume of traffic on La Buena Vista decreased and people (children from school, people walking, school children daily walking from the Montessori School, people in wheelchairs with one walking his dog, stroke victim attempting to walk to his neighbors houses, etc.) are using Las Flores to walk on without fear that they would have to jump into the bushes to avoid a speeding car. In the 18 years I have lived on this street I have seen 5 traffic accidents-one in front of my house where a pick-up was going so fast that it flipped end over end near my mailbox. If I had been there I would not be writing this email.

Since we have had public hearings and numerous meetings regarding closing this street and the City Council made a decision in view of that material, we feel that an independent study be done before any action to reopen the street. Otherwise this issue may just continue with much rancor and neighborhood wrangling.

Again, we commend and support the Council's action to close the street. It has been successful. Let us not destroy one of the few neighborhoods in Wimberley for the sake of a few people with a vested

interest.

Thank you you for your attention.

Sincerely,

David DiTraglia, 15 Las Flores Drive

Vance Hobbs, 13 Las Flores Drive

## Don Ferguson

---

From: Tammie Sedam [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 11:51 AM

To: bflocke@cityofwimberley.com; dferguson@cityofwimberley.com; ttalcott@cityofwimberley.com; mmcullough@cityofwimberley.com; mmEEKS@cityofwimberley.com; sthurber@cityofwimberley.com; jwhite@cityofwimberley.com

Hello Gentlemen,

Thank you for taking time to read my email. Because of what was said around and to my family at the town meeting, I will not be bringing my children to tonight's meeting. Which means if I am unable to find a sitter, I will be unable to attend. Please do not think that because I/we have respected your wishes to not discuss harassment we are experiencing that the harassment has stopped. It has not!

While counsel meetings are not the most entertaining experiences for children, it is a sad day when they don't feel safe to come to learn how city government works or to share their thoughts.

For years the people on Las Flores have been trying to protect their person, family, and property from vandalism, large vehicles, over 800 cars a day and strangers. We have tried stopped signs, calling police, a city marshal and speed control. Over six years ago, we even tried to get speed humps and the very people fighting the culdesac are the very ones that stopped that effort. None of our efforts brought us any positive or helpful results... only excuses. Finally last year, we had people that listened and were willing to help. The original plan was to close off the residential neighborhood completely. Many people, including the people on La Buena Vista, fought this plan. They wanted the convenience of a cut thorough and choice. The next proposal was to make Las Flores a closed street. **This was a compromise NOT a mistake.**

Money was spent and a year later,

- we have a neighborhood not a cut through (which according to the official maps is what is it is designed to be).
- People are using Emergency Lane.
- The drop in traffic has helped the whole neighborhood not just Las Flores.
- Strangers are no longer coming to my door. The only dangers and harassment we face are from people in our own neighborhood.
- The Wimberley track team is able to have another place to run.
- The Montessori school is facing less traffic and as a result are safer.
- The exit leaving Las Flores also has less traffic and as a result less of a hazard.

Yes the people on La Buena Vista ave seen a slight increase in traffic, with convenience and choice, there are responsibilities. Most of the residents on Las Flores are fine with the lack of convenience and prefer safety. Why should we have to have the burden of traffic for the convenience of others. We have done it long enough.

**Before** increasing the traffic flow through neighborhood, it would be **wise** to address and solve the safety issue of the traffic entering 2325 from Las Flores. It would also be **wise** to install changes in stages to make sure the city is able to enforce what they are proposing. Instead of spending thousands of dollars and then find out changes are unable to be monitored or

enforced, why not add the big truck regulations and the additional speed humps to La Buena Vista and see if that will solve the safety issues.

Lastly it would be a mistake to remove the railroads blocks. They were placed because of actions and choices of the property owners. While I appreciate you want to think the best of people, I firmly believe if someone shows you who they are... believe them.

I am writing this knowing that it probably won't make a difference but feel it is my duty as my children's mother to make a last ditch effort to protect my family.

Sincerely,  
Tammie Sedam

Don Ferguson

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From: Denny McCoy [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 12:10 PM  
To: dferguson@cityofwimberley.com  
Subject: Las Flores Dr./La Buena Vista Dr. proposed traffic safety plan

Dear Mr Ferguson,

I am unable to attend tonight's City Council meeting and would like to express my thoughts on the proposed traffic safety plan for Las Flores and La Buena Vista Drives.

I feel the closure of Las Flores was a mistake. I drive the route that connects route 2325 and Ranch Road 12 every day (I work at 151 Las Flores) and have found that since the closure the increased traffic on La Buena Vista has created an unsafe situation. The traffic calming devices (speed humps) have been effective in reducing the speed of traffic and I feel they are a successful addition. Unfortunately since closing Las Flores the increased number of vehicles seems to have cancelled the benefit that was expected. More drivers were not discouraged from using these roadways. Now a similar number of drivers are funneled onto just the one open roadway (LA Buena Vista).

The plan to now open the road is a good one but the idea of making each road a one way only increases traffic flow. Cities regularly turn two way thoroughfares into one way streets in order to increase traffic flow and decrease congestion. People don't speed up if they know there may be a vehicle coming from the other direction but knowing that there's not one coming towards you allows you to be less cautious. I have noticed that the speed humps recently installed actually make me slow down more if I see oncoming traffic, as the idea of crossing one of the barriers with another car or truck approaching seems risky. Las Flores is a very narrow and curvy road and the idea of not worrying what's coming towards you around the next turn does not promote watchfulness.

I also feel that installing signs to make it illegal to make turns on or off of any of the roads in question just adds to confusion. The addition of more regulations does not necessarily promote safety.

I'm sure that opening Las Flores Drive with the addition of more of these successful speed humps will promote caution and allow all the citizens of Wimberley safe access to all their roads.

Thanks you for your consideration,

Denny McCoy  
PO Box 989  
Wimberley, Texas 78676  
512-847-1719