

## Meeting

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lem areas in the borough.

Hiller also said that the quality and quantity of water supplies was one of her prime concerns. She called the area, "already at risk," and reminded the audience of last summer's water shortages.

"If the incumbents are returned to office," she said, "we shall see Deer Meadow upon Deer Meadow until we're looking at another 200 to 300 homes." Hiller's reference to the Deer Meadow development was repeated throughout the evening. Rezoning that property from C-1 to R-1, residential, was the action that spurred the formation of the preservation association last year.

Hugh King, candidate for council and also a preservation group member, recounted his impressions of Dallas in the 1960's, when he first arrived here. King said he chose to move to Dallas because it was a "nice, rural community with not too many houses."

King had lived for a time in Vienna Virginia, and said he saw that area rezoned to smaller lots from two acres. The result, he said, was rampant overdevelopment.

Pat Peiffer, who is a teacher in the Lake-Lehman school district, said poor road maintenance was one of her prime concerns in running for the council.

In the past three years or so, our community has started to deteriorate," she said in her opening statement. Peiffer claimed that the roads in the borough are in poor condition, and receive inadequate service in the winter. Peiffer

described herself as a lifelong resident of the borough, and said she lived in the first house constructed on Sterling Avenue.

Questioning from the audience started mildly, but soon escalated as partisans on both sides of issues fired queries at the candidates, and sometimes other audience members.

Regina Bogdon, a resident of Machell Avenue, asked High King what his solution to protecting the environment would be in the absence of sewers. King has publicly opposed the planned installation of sewers on Machell Avenue.

King responded that if two acre zoning had been retained, there would be no need for the sewers, but the smaller lots being developed would require them. But he warned that the system that is planned holds the potential for pollution of lower Machell Avenue and the Huntsville reservoir.

King said that the pumping station required to push the sewage to the top of Machell could break down, sending thousands of gallons of waste into the reservoir.

That contention was later disputed by Tom Bagley, manager of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, who explained that DAMA presently maintains several pump stations in the area and has not had a major accident.

Clark Lewis, who said he is also a Machell Avenue resident, asked Hiller if she would be in favor of extending sewer lines onto Reservoir Road, which runs next to the reservoir.

*"Let's forget about Deer Meadow. There are other people who live in the borough in other areas."*

Ted Wright  
Dallas Fire and Ambulance president

"The sewers are the death knell for both the reservoir and the conservation lands," Hiller said in response. She said that the presence of sewers would allow future developers to demand variances and rezoning, so they could build on smaller lots. Hiller repeated her position in favor of individual septic systems on two acre lots.

Hiller went on to claim that residents should be more concerned with the storm water runoff that will come from the homesites in Deer Meadow. She said that the water would contain toxins and poisons that would ruin the reservoir.

In a heated exchange, Bogdon asked Hiller why she had not been concerned with matters when there had been both storm and wastewater runoff into the reservoir for years. "I don't think you people have gotten your facts," she shouted.

Hiller defended herself, acknowledging that she had not always been concerned with such things. "I am a convert," she admitted. She said that better enforcement of regulations was needed to prevent abuses.

Ted Wright led a contingent of supporter of the absent incumbents. Identifying himself as the

president of Dallas Fire and Ambulance, Wright asked King what financial plan he had in mind to raise revenue to operate the borough during the next four years.

King at first tried to explain how Deer Meadow would have a negative, not positive effect on the borough's finances, but Wright interjected that he wanted a broader answer.

"Let's forget about Deer Meadow," he said. "There are other people who live in the borough in different areas." Kings then responded with an assertion that two acre zoning would provide more tax revenue than smaller lots.

"Dallas doesn't need any more poor people," King said. "We need more wealthy people to pay the bills." King went on to say that he would like to see new housing in the borough in the \$250-300,000 range.

The subject of road repairs caused an acrimonious discussion between Peiffer and Wright when Peiffer said that she hasn't seen any work done on borough roads in the last four years.

"Have you been down Norton, Lehman or Davenport?" asked Wright, pointing out that those three streets had been repaired last year.

"That's one year," retorted Peiffer. "What happened to the other three?"

Peiffer said that the borough's two man road crew had been down to one since February, due to illness. She also suggested that there were items that could have been cut from the budget to pay for more pressing needs. She gave as an example the money spent to refurbish the council chambers, which she said cost \$30,000.

In a reference to comments made about insufficient fire protection in the borough, Wright then asked Hiller her credentials on the matter.

"On what basis - expertise - do you comment on fire service?" Wright asked.

Hiller at first responded by stating that she respects the efforts made by the volunteer fire and ambulance personnel, and appreciates what they do.

"I have no expertise other than common sense," Hiller said, "and when people don't have enough water to fill up a glass, I wonder where water will come from to fight a fire."

Wright then restated the fire department's assertion that they are prepared to handle the demands of a growing community.

Hiller drew applause when she suggested the borough should proceed with restraint until more is known about potential water supply problems.

"Maybe we have enough water, but we certainly aren't getting it to the right places," she said.

Regina Bogdon then challenged

Hiller on the credibility of the petition that Hiller filled when she was challenging the planning commission's support for rezoning Deer Meadow. Bogdon claimed that people were pressured into signing the petition, believing it had only to do with the water shortage that existed at the time. She also claimed that some persons signed more than once, that children signed and that the petition included signatures from persons who do not live in the borough.

Those assertions led to a verbal battle between Bogdon and audience member Anees Barakat. Moderator Daniels joined the fray briefly, questioning Bogdon's motives for being present.

After the ruckus calmed down, Daniels gave the three candidates time for closing statements, in which they repeated the points they had made at the beginning of the meeting.

Overall, it seemed that a slim majority of the audience favored the positions espoused by the candidates on the dais. However, it was hard to tell if very many audience members had come without their minds already made up.

On Monday, Hiller said she had been upset with the organized effort to plant the meeting with her opponents' supporters.

"They tried to control the meeting by asking biased questions from personal friends," she said. "What disturbed me was that they waited it out on higher ground."

But Hiller said the process made an impression on her.

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