

By: Hefner

H.C.R. No. 122

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For more than 120 years, the East Texas community of
2 Pittsburg has been recognized across the Lone Star State as the
3 premier source of the delicious sausages known as hot links; and

4 WHEREAS, This savory tradition began in 1897, when an
5 entrepreneur of German ancestry named Charlie Hasselback brought
6 his recipe for hot links to Camp County; at first he sold the links
7 raw from his butcher shop in Pittsburg, but in 1918, he began
8 selling them cooked and ready to eat; traditionally served on
9 butcher paper with hot sauce and crackers, these small, stubby
10 sausages won instant converts with their unique texture, crunchy on
11 the outside and soft on the inside, and their signature burst of
12 flavor; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the years, Pittsburg has been home to several
14 hot link businesses; O. O. Smith, who worked with Mr. Hasselback,
15 established his own hot link shop and later sold it to Johnny
16 Franklin, who ran it until the 1990s; the hot link joint started by
17 Henry James passed through several hands before it closed in the
18 1970s; Barney Warrick, who initially worked for Mr. James, went on
19 to set up his own hot link enterprise with his son, Gene; and

20 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Gene Warrick and Jimmy Brooks founded
21 the B&W Meat Company and JB's Hot Links; Mr. Warrick took over the
22 businesses in the 1980s and changed the names to Pittsburg Hot Link
23 Restaurants, Inc., and Pittsburg Hot Link Packers, Inc., and he and
24 his wife, Madeline, purchased and renovated the building where

1 Pittsburg Hot Links has been managed by Teresa, Tina, Sala, and
2 Sonya Warrick, and is currently managed by Sabin and his sister,
3 Salina Warrick; and

4 WHEREAS, While there are hot link shops in many nearby
5 communities, including Mount Pleasant, Daingerfield, Gilmer, and
6 Winnsboro, Pittsburg remains the home of the hot link, drawing
7 visitors from all over the state and nation; Pittsburg Hot Links and
8 its adjoining Sausage Warehouse take up an entire city block of
9 downtown Pittsburg, and the warehouse produces more than eight
10 million links, or a million pounds of sausage, each year,
11 generating over \$2.5 million in sales and \$750,000 in payroll; and

12 WHEREAS, Often referred to as "East Texas caviar," Pittsburg
13 hot links are a source of pride and prosperity for the people of
14 Pittsburg as well as a significant contribution to the culinary
15 tradition of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby designate Pittsburg as the official Hot Link Capital of
18 Texas; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
20 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
21 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
22 passed by the legislature.