

# Liberty Hill council might oust new member for alleged assault

**BY PAMELA LEBLANC**  
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**LIBERTY HILL** — The City Council tonight will consider removing from office a newly elected council member who witnesses say scuffled with a local chiropractor outside of council chambers during a meeting last week.

Gary Spivey, 52, a contractor who was elected to the Liberty Hill City Council in May, allegedly burst out of a closed session of the council and threw chiropractor Jerry Casebolt, 59, to the ground. Spivey has been charged with two counts of assault with bodily injury, a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine.

Spivey could not be reached for

comment Wednesday.

Casebolt filed a civil lawsuit Wednesday seeking unspecified damages in connection with the June 26 incident.

The lawsuit says Spivey struck Casebolt in the back without provocation, then attacked him again by "grabbing him in a bear hug and body-slamm[ing] him onto the ground."

The lawsuit also says Casebolt suffered injuries to his head, left arm, left wrist and left hand that have affected his ability to practice as a chiropractor.

"What it boils down to quite simply is, (Casebolt) is a vocal political opponent of unbridled development and supports a little more green council members, and Gary Spivey is a developer," said

Austin lawyer Kevin Madison, who is representing Casebolt. "They have opposing political viewpoints."

Liberty Hill, a community of about 2,000 people that was settled in the 1840s, did not incorporate as a town until January 1999. Since then, it has instituted a sales tax and discussed bringing sewer service to residents who have long relied on septic tanks. It is about 30 miles northwest of Austin.

"My client doesn't believe in physical altercations," Madison said. "He believes if there's a problem, you work through the judicial system. That's what this lawsuit is."

Tonight's meeting is set for 7 p.m. at City Hall on Loop 332 in Liberty Hill.