



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2022
6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Mayor Morris Called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

The following Councilmember's were present:

*Mayor Clay Morris
MPT Russell Rupertus
Alderman Sherwood Green
Alderman Gil Madray
Alderman Lorraine "Taz" Jones
Alderman Marci Kurtz-Hoffman*

The following staff was present:

*Director Brad Heiman
City Secretary Debbie Nesbitt*

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS:

With a quorum of the Council Members present, Mayor Morris called the meeting to order followed by the pledge of allegiance lead by MPT Rupertus to the U.S. and Texas flags.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

None

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING:

None

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL:

Members of the public are invited to give comments at this time, lasting no longer than 3 minutes.

Citizens may address a specific agenda item, to ask questions. The Mayor may ask you to remain at the podium if Council has statement or questions.

Citizens may make comments about items not on the agenda and that are general in nature. These comments should be directed at the entire Council, not individual members of the Council, Staff, or audience. Any speaker making personal attacks, defamation or using vulgar or profane language shall forfeit his/her remaining time and shall be seated. Suggestions, praise, and criticism are not only welcome, but encouraged, though no action will be discussed or taken. For such an item, the Mayor may either: (1) make a statement of fact regarding the item; (2) make a statement concerning the policy regarding the item; or (3) propose that the item be placed on a future agenda. (House Bill 2840) (City of JB Ordinances 2017-9 & 2018-2)

Dale Hubert - 16525 Jamaica Cove; Thanked Council for continuing to let citizens speak. Talked about responsibility – asked council if they are aware of their responsibilities, asked Alderman Green if he was going to take his responsibility seriously and come to council meeting. Said “all council members have a responsibility to the community, and its citizens.” Wanted to address the rock issue more.

Mark R. Sloan - 16531 Jamaica Cove; Stated his name, address, phone number and asked if he needed to give his drivers licenses number. Talked about something that was mentioned in an earlier meeting about time being wasted on petty things and stated that “this is how things get done when a city council does nothing and people have to do the work for you.” Put closure on these issues instead of tap dancing around certain things, and you all know about the tape of mine, one council member did come and visit with me, and asked questions, ask my side of the story, I think everybody knows my side, it's on the tape, and if you haven't seen it give me a call and I'll give you a copy before it goes on face book. “Is it ok for a Council members spouse to call someone an a**hole, I don't think so and it is on tape, I think a simple apology is appropriate. Own it and say you are sorry.”

Grant Hill - 16708 San Luis Pass Road – Read his comments

“Thank you counsel for the opportunity to speak. I'll keep it under 3 minutes, seems reasonable and I would like to respect the city's time and resources. It's understandable that NO ONE on council has noticed a very serious issue with our great city. Jamaica Beach is a paradise and so many members of the community are failing to recognize this. I hear complaints about the city that seem to be personal issues. I hear complaints about the beach. Anything from too much trash to, to many trash cans. I love the beach and try to spend as much time as possible on the beach. This morning I was having a snack on the beach and had a realization: I had to many chips for my dip, but if I opened another dip, I'd have to much dip for my chips. NOW that is frustrating, So, I took a deep breath and told myself Jamaica Beach is paradise.

Personally, I'd like to see HOT funds allocated towards 2 weekend trash pick-ups at the beach during the summer season. We should work together as a community to make Jamaica Beach “the cleanest beach in Texas”. A place to be proud to share with every visitor. Along these lines, I respectfully ask the council to consider adopting an official city anthem: Cheeseburger in Paradise, by Jimmy Buffett. If copyright is an issue, could we all just get a Beach Burger at Way West and enjoy paradise? Thank you for the time. AND lastly, I will close with my most important point: Alderman Hoffman, thank you for your service!”

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:

Director of Finance Nesbitt – presented council with the quarterly financial reports. Reported that HOT funds collected as of 3/31/2022 are \$364,195.31 and Property Tax collections are \$816,443.63.

Police Chief Heiman – Chief Heiman reported that Easter weekend went smoothly with the traffic and events this weekend, issued a few glass on the beach citations. Reported the city lost one of the directors; Ana Mondragon, and she is being missed already, and I will be picking up on some of the projects she was working on and catching them up and get them up to date, FEMA & TDEM.

Fire Chief Baden - No Report

COMMENTS / REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Alderwoman Hoffman: Read her report:

As this is my last update after 6 years on council, I will say it has been a pleasure to serve. Jamaica Beach is a great community with a great staff. We should be proud to call it home and look forward to the future of our island community. While it is often difficult to deal with all the online negativity, I would encourage people to use the NEW city website and provide solution-based criticism and feedback. We the council try to get people involved but it comes with hesitation and skepticism. I posted an official survey and was just met with complaints about not needing it, wanting something else, doubts about if it would hold up etc. We've discussed for a while a plan for the park. It was new playground equipment first due to safety and then pickleball

and swings along with other enhancements. Unfortunately, things do move slow, and it is my hope that we get at least two enhancements done this year.

Despite the beach being included in the parks I unfortunately wasn't involved in any of the planning in that regard and haven't been included in the plans, (even though that's part of my education). If you ever feel the GLO is looking out for the environment, I would love to challenge you on that. I would like to have a community event before summer to paint the beach trash cans so I am looking for help with that if I'm allowed. As far as Memorial Day I suggest the council put it together, the volunteers will help but have no interest in leading the event. The following things I am saying because I care a lot about Jamaica Beach and want to see better. For some reason, our city has a seed of doubt towards council members instead of using them as a tool. It is frustrating and takes its toll on a person. I don't know what else to do to help everyone other than to encourage asking questions, communicate with your council members and coming

to or watching the meetings. Use the 3 minutes for citizens comments and voice your concerns. Council members are listening, but it may be something they have no control over. Also, run for office! The council needs fresh ideas, fresh eyes on things. I think I can safely say everyone is on council because they care and give the community their all. I have never made any decisions lightly nor intentionally kept citizens out of the loop. We've had some archaic technology issues that we are finally kicking out that I voted for multiple years ago. It is also illegal for council to make changes that are not in a publicly called meeting, so if you feel that happens that's just not the case. In fact, due to quorum regulations there are times small changes that take place that some council members may not even know of. Politics are a two-way street, and you are responsible just as much as this council is. Do your part, be an informed citizen and share your opinion rather than placing blame on the council as a whole, it is your civic duty.

Alderwoman Jones: Reported she helped Marci with the easter events, helped set up took video's and stayed to clean up, probably had over 100 people there and kids. Thanked Marci for all her hard work. "Early voting starts next week, get out and vote, there are two super important State of Texas amendments." Attended a marvelous event in League City, the Galveston County Convention and even got to give away a few stars for troops, if someone was wearing a Vietnam Veteran hat, it was easy to find them and give them a star. April 23, 2022, at the Galveston Country Club is the West Galveston Property Owners Association meeting and Cheryl Johnson with Galveston County Tax Collectors office will be there and she always finds a way to help citizens with their taxes, breakfast starts at 8:30 and meeting at 9:00 am.

Alderman Madray – Reported on the City projects he is liaison on, roads and utilities. The county has agreed to re-prioritize and finish the entrances to the beach on Buccaneer before we officially open the beach for the summer season and come back and clean up the edges of the roads they have already finished.

MPT Rupertus – "We have so many projects going on in the city right now. I attended a couple of good meetings, the last couple of weeks, JBIC has set the annual membership meeting for July 23, 2022, also the Hurricane preparedness meeting is yet to be released but is a lot of good information especially for newcomers. Street projects, Alderman Madray touched on, one thing he missed is the speed bumps on Jamaica Inn, no one has seen this kind of issues, they are going to saw cut the areas and remove and investigate what is going on and come up with a plan, so it doesn't happen again. Construction has started at the entrance to the beach at Buccaneer and there is a lot of heavy equipment, please be very careful and try and take 15-mile road. Pelican Road, they are taking it down and redoing it, please be patient with the mess and dust. Waterline replacement project, they are coming to the end of phase 3 and they have run into a small issue at the end of John Silver, there is no water line to tie into, so they have to add about 100 feet of line to loop around to tie into. Within the next couple of weeks, they will be tying in everybody's service and the city will release information what to expect to protect your pipes and homes just check the city website and follow directions. Currently rehabbing the Blackbeard Lift station just west of City Hall and the road will be closed to the shopping center behind city hall for at least a couple of weeks, please be patience with all the contractors working in the neighborhoods with all the projects we have going on. The city is short staffed with the loss our operations Director so please be patient with the staff.

Alderman Green: - No report

CONSENT AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *The following items are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be a separate discussion on these items unless a Councilmember request, in which event, the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

1. *Approval of minutes of the Regular City Council meeting 3-21-2022*

Alderman Madray made the motion to approve, seconded by Alderwoman Hoffman.

VOTE

5 AYES (Madray, Jones, Hoffman, MPT Rupertus, Green)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR'S REPORT: MPT Rupertus and Alderman Madray discussed most of what I had on my list. We are doing a lot and working hard. The citizens elected us to make it happen and we will do everything we can to keep doing everything we can.

EXECUTIVE SESSION It is anticipated that all, or a portion of the discussion of the following items, if any, will be conducted in closed executive session under authority of the Texas Open Meetings Act. However, no action will be taken on these items until the City Council reconvenes in open session.

CLOSED MEETING

- a. **Executive session held pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.071(2) to receive legal counsel from attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the open meetings requirement.**

RECONVENE Into regular open session and consider action, if any, on items discussed in Executive Session.

No action taken from executive session.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

MPT Rupertus made the motion to adjourn, second by Alderman Madray. Motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 6:52 pm.