



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2023
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 - Absent
Alderman Sherwood "Woody" Green
Alderman Gil Madray
Alderwoman Lorraine "Taz" Jones
Alderman David Welch*

The following staff was present:

*Director of Operations Robert Quintero
City Secretary Debbie Nesbitt
Chief of Police Raymond Garivey*

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 to the U.S. and Texas flags lead by Alderman Welch.

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

Kaylynn Williford: 16714 Marina – Agenda items 9 & 10. Wanted to clear up some confusion as to where the no parking signs will go, from Flamingo Way and back to the end of Bob Smith. Couple of reasons this is important, to stop people from cutting the fence, disturbing the marsh grass and keep unwanted trash from all along Bob Smith. Will not prohibit people from seeing the sunsets or sitting in the golf carts fishing, just help stop cars left unattended.

Debra Tabbert: 16916 Beachcomber – Agenda items 7 & 10. The dog park, thinks it's a great idea, something we've needed in our community, and can possibly use some of the Hot Tax money for the expense. Branch Construction, and there's nothing for free, looked back in our check register and we've spent almost \$115,000.00 since October 2022 with little oversight from council, if these are truly emergency repairs, we have bigger problems than any of us know.

Sarah Clark Konopik: 16610 Francis Drake – Agenda item number 7. Voice concerns about Branch Construction, their background, how the process was done for them to be chosen. How they will handle emergencies, fees charged, travel time, response time, and scope of work they will perform.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:

Chief of Police Garivey - Report attached for January 2023 - No questions were asked

Annual Racial Profiling Report, attached. - No questions were asked.

Director of Operations Quintero - Report attached. - No questions were asked

Fire Chief - No report

City Secretary Nesbitt - Report attached. - No questions were asked

COMMENTS / REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Alderman Green: No report.

Alderwoman Jones: read her report.

I attended the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association meeting and took a video of the meeting. You can find that on YouTube. I had the pleasure of talking to our State Representative Terry Leo Wilson. We are very fortunate to have her represent us in Austin. I am keeping an eye on new legislation in Austin that will be debated and could affect our city. It's a little hobby of mine to track the bills that are presented. I find it quite fascinating to follow the process. Our Stars for Troops volunteers have been busy. We have been collecting flags and packaging stars for our Military, Veterans, and 1st Responders. The stars are shared as a token of appreciation from the City of Jamaica Beach. The remaining stripes from the flags are retired with honor. Our volunteers take stars with them when they travel so we have reached all corners of this nation and the world. If you want to donate a flag, please be sure they are made in the USA and have embroidered stars. You can drop them off at City Hall or contact me. If you want to become a volunteer, you can call City Hall and they can give you my phone number. In the past few weeks, I have talked to so many of the wonderful and kind people of Jamaica Beach. We really do live in the best little village in Texas. Galveston State Park will be having their Grand Re-Opening on March 31st at 10 am. It is open to the public.

Alderman Madray:

Working with Robert on our water system, trying to find out about leakages, wasted water and what's causing it, where it's coming from and how much we are losing, we just got a new water meter from the City of Galveston, and maybe we could start monitoring our usages and the times, and try and figure out where if any we have issues.

Alderman Welch: Acknowledged the attending members of the Beautification

Committee and thanked them for all the hard work they are doing. Would like to have two meetings a month, to have more time to discuss and vote, also would like a citizens input with no formal agenda, just to take input from citizens. "One general comment "the city is so divided right now, which it hasn't been for probably over 23 years and it makes me very sad to say it seems that one person's at the center, Alderwoman Jones, I am very disappointed with you, you are reckless and it has caused our city to divide even further, it's just not right, just because you have the right to do something, doesn't make it the right thing to do".

MPT Rupertus - Absent

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 from the Public Hearing, P&Z meeting 1-23-2022*
2. *Approval of minutes from the Regular City Council meeting 1-23-2023*

Motion made by Alderman Green to approve as read, seconded by Alderman Welch.

Motion passed. MPT Rupertus - absent

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-05 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-1 SECTION D.** Quintero

Motion made by Alderman Welch to approve, seconded by Alderman Green.

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Welch, Madray Jones)

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT (MPT Rupertus)

MOTION PASSED

2. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06 REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2001-03 REALIGNMENT OF COUNCIL POSITIONS BY ALLOWING FOR THE MAYOR'S TERM TO BE FOR A ONE YEAR TERM.** Quintero

Motion made by Alderman Welch to approve, seconded by Alderman Green.

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Welch, Madray Jones)

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT (MPT Rupertus)

MOTION PASSED

3. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07 TO ESTABLISH A DEAD TREE, DISEASED TREE, A DEAD PALM TREE AND BRANCHES RULES AND REGULATIONS.** Quintero

Motion made by Alderman Welch to table Ordinance No. 2023-07, seconded by Alderman Green.

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Welch, Madray Jones)

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT (MPT Rupertus)

MOTION WAS TABLED

4. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02 DESIGNATING ROBERT M. QUINTERO TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FOR CAR CAM CAMERA'S FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.** Quintero

Motion made by Alderman Welch to approve, seconded by Alderman Green.

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Welch, Madray Jones)

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT (MPT Rupertus)
MOTION PASSED

5. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03 APPROVING THE ANNUAL GALVESTON COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT CONTRACT FOR AERIAL SPRAYING FOR MOSQUITOES. Quintero

Motion made by Alderman Green to approve, seconded by Alderman Welch.

VOTE
4 AYES (Green, Welch, Madray Jones)
0 NAYS
1 ABSENT (MPT Rupertus)
MOTION PASSED

6. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04 APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH TIPS, PURCHASING COOPERATIVE. Quintero

Motion made by Alderman Welch to table Resolution No. 2023-04, seconded by Alderman Madray.

VOTE
4 AYES (Green, Welch, Madray Jones)
0 NAYS
1 ABSENT (MPT Rupertus)
MOTION WAS TABLED

7. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPROVE A MAINTAINANCE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH AND BRANCH CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO OPERATE THE WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATIONS. Quintero

Motion made to discuss by Alderman Green, seconded by Alderman Welch.

VOTE
3 AYES (Green, Welch, Jones)
1 NAYS (Madray)
1 ABSENT (MPT Rupertus)
MOTION PASSED

8. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO CHANGE THE WAITING PERIOD ON NEW HIRES FOR HEALTH CARE INSURANCE BENEFITS WITH TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

Motion made by Alderman Green to change the waiting period for Health Care benefits for new employees to 30 days instead of 90, seconded by Alderman Welch.

VOTE
4 AYES (Green, Welch, Madray, Jones)
0 NAYS
1 ABSENT (MPT Rupertus)
MOTION PASSED

9. DISCUSSION, NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON NO PARKING ON BOB SMITH. Morris

With much discussion and input, council would like to see what the citizens want, would consider looking into a petition or having a town hall meeting.

10. DISCUSSION, ONLY NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO CONSIDER MAKING A DOG PARK ON THE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE CITIES WATERWASTE TREATMENT PLANT. Madray

Alderman Madray read his report on the dog park. At the meet the candidates when I ran for office there was a lot of political talk about a Dog Park. I liked it then and I like it even better now. I'm proposing that we use the City property at the Waste Treatment Plant for the Dog Park. There is enough area for parking and a good-sized Dog Park. The city of

Galveston has several dog Parks that are smaller. We can do this cost efficiently, site prep and fencing, with hot tax money. This would allow for the \$107,200.00 dollars of property tax money, that's in the Budget now for bulkhead work down there, to be used for priority infrastructure needs. Amenities like this Dog Park are what make a community a community and speak volumes about what kind of town I want us to be. We are early in this discussion. I move that this discussion be tabled until the next council meeting at which time I will present a concept plan for council and staff consideration and action.

11. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Morris reported that the city has been monitoring water usage and water loss, and doesn't feel like we need to spend a lot of money on testing and measuring, it's pretty simple when water is shooting out of the ground, we know it needs to be fixed. Thanked Director of Operations for his hard work on daily responsibilities, and he's the guy to get grants and federal funding. The process with Branch was followed as instructed by council correctly and he had the approval to negotiate with them. Thanked the beautification committee again for all the work they have done, its been a great positive experience. Thanked Branch Construction for all the work during the holidays and during the freeze shutting off water to homes at no cost to the city, cleaning the drainage ditches and for the concrete labor behind city hall. "Will continue doing upgrades and repairs within the city, it's a slow process, but we are working toward a solution. About to start taking bids on phase 4 of the waterline replacement project. Remember I am a phone call away and so are staff. "

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Alderman Welch to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Madray. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.