



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

16628 San Luis Pass Road In City Council Chambers
5264 Jamaica Beach
Jamaica Beach, Texas 77554
PH (409) 737-1142 FAX (409) 737-5211
www.ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 21, 2021

6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL OF ALDERMEN

The following Councilmember's were present:

Mayor Clay Morris
MPT Sherwood Green
Alderman Russell Rupertus
Alderman Taz Jones
Alderman Marci Kurtz-Hoffman

The following staff was present:

Interim City Administrator Brad Heiman
Interim Chief of Police John Aucoin
City Secretary Debbie C. Nesbitt

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS

With a quorum of the Council Members present, Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags given by MPT Green.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER PERSON)

Kaylynn Williford, 16714 Marina Drive - Is here to support the no parking on streets during certain times, and believes the city should look into the parking issues for Fire Trucks and Police vehicles to be able to get to an emergency is needed, and set a time frame for parking on the streets.

John Springer, 16522, Bahama Way - explained he is in favor of something being done with the parking on the streets, he explained he's only here about a week every 6 weeks or so and the streets are full of extra vehicles parked on the sides of the road ways and he has to pull his mirrors in on his vehicle to drive down the street to his house, and it could possibly be an issue if emergency vehicles had to get down the street.

Joe Deforke, 196526 Jamaica Cove Way - explained it makes him extremely mad when he can't get down his street, or get his golf cart out, next to him there are three rental properties and they block his driveway a lot, and he asks the City officials discuss the issue and come up with a solution to the parking issues in the City on narrow streets.

Ginger Jones, 16222 Curlew - she is in favor of no parking on the streets; and thought setting a time frame no parking on the streets after 10:30 pm. Also would like for the City to get three bids on the Blackbeard project, and the position of Police Reserves, why not do a background checks, seems to be unnecessary and isn't the Chief of Police in charge of that, and reports to the Mayor and why is the City Administrator involved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSIDER FOR ACTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 21, 2021

Motion made by Alderman Rupertus, seconded by Alderwoman Jones. Motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021 regular meeting and the minutes from the workshop on June 7, 2021.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE REHABILITATION OF THE BLACKBEARD LIFT STATION BASED ON THE SINGLE BID BY MERCER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$85,675.00.

Motion made by MPT Green, seconded by Alderwoman Kurtz-Hoffman to discuss, after much discussion MPT made the motion to put the work out for more bids, at least two other than just the one from Mercer, seconded by Alderwoman Kurtz-Hoffman. Motion carried unanimously to re-bid the project.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE 21-05, AND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMICA BEACH, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE 87-4; PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL NO PARKING STREETS DEEMED NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by Alderwoman Jones, seconded by Alderman Madray to discuss: Alderwoman Kurtz-Hoffman said that she had had lots of input concerning this and most were not in favor of the amendment, and she's just not sure 10:00 pm. To 7:00 am. Would work either. MPT Green voiced he had been contacted by a lot of residents and they are not in favor, and he is not in favor of this. Alderwoman Jones also said she had been contacted and most she's spoken to have been in favor of this idea and said she is in favor of this, and maybe by 11:00 pm. It would work. Alderman Madray does not want to delay this issue, let's fix the issue for the community, let's do the right thing. Alderman Rupertus voiced that he received lots of comments and emails from citizens, and in all the years he has lived here, served on the fire department he's never seen any issues that an emergency vehicle couldn't get down the street if needed, just enforce the policies that are already in place, and he is much opposed to this. Interim City Administrator Helman agreed with the fact that in his 6 plus years never had an issue getting emergency vehicles down the streets. Interim Chief of Police Aucoin said he has been with the City since 2013 and has not had any problems getting down the streets, just let us know, give us a call; we can issue all kind of parking citations. After much discussion no motion was made to continue – motion failed.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE 2021-02, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS, AMENDING THE DUNE PROTECTION AND BEACH PLAN OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS, AND STANDARDS FOR THE REGULATING ACCESS AND PARKING ON THE BEACH, TO PROVIDE VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES, TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by Alderman Madray, seconded by Alderwoman Jones to discuss: Alderman Madray spoke if this is passed it would illuminate the pedestrian beach and make it less congested and confusion when parking cars and I think it's a good thing. City Administrator Helman spoke if passed it would allow additional cars to be able to park on the beach, and give more turn around area.

Alderman Madray asked to bring this to the next workshop and he would put something together with numbers to present to council. After much discussion no motion was made to continue -- motion failed.

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE 95-03A, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS, AMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL, STOP SIGNS ON STREETS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.**

Alderman Madray made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Kurtz-Hoffman to discuss: Alderman Madray talked about looking at area's to add stop signs to cut down on the speeders. Interim Police Chief Aucoin said adding additional signs would not stop the speeders, only patrolling the worst area's would help, issue more citations. Council was given a suggestion on possibly looking into solar blinking stop signs, the response was, would have to look into the cost and effectiveness. After much discussion, Alderman Madray made the motion, with no second, to continue -- motion failed.

5. **DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AMEND CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH RESOLUTION 2019-10, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR SUBMITTING, RECEIVING, AND PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION (OPEN RECORDS); AND PROVIDING RULES AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUESTS IN A PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY.**

Alderwoman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderman Madray to discuss: Alderwoman Jones made the comment, that shouldn't the new City Secretary, be sworn into the elected official position. Alderwoman Jones asked to amend an update the Resolution naming the open records officer to City Secretary Debbie Nesbitt. Motion was made by Alderwoman Jones, seconded by Alderman Madray. Motion passed with a 4 to 1 vote with Alderman Rupertus voting no. Motion carried 4 to 1 and passed.

6. **DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE 2017-7, AND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS, AMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RESERVE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS; PROVIDING THE METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR APPOINTMENT OF RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS; PROVIDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE RESERVE POLICE OFFICER; PROVIDING OTHER PROVISION RELATING TO THE SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Alderman Rupertus made the motion, seconded by MPT Green to discuss: Interim City Administrator Heiman explained to Council that the current Ordinance calls for 13 reserve officers, and with the new beach plan in place, we have tripled the number of patrols at the beach and need to increase officers to 18. Alderman Rupertus, made the motion to approve the amendment as stated, seconded by Alderwoman Kurtz-Hoffman. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Interim City Administrator Heiman thanked City Council for several things, putting up with him during this Interim period and a change in key staff members, and welcomed Debbie Nesbitt to the team, and that he's very happy she's here and is doing a good job.

MAYOR'S REPORT - No Report

ALDERMEN REPORTS:

L. Jones, and G. Madray - No Reports

Alderwoman M. Kurtz-Hoffman reported on the dead scrubs being removed and others being trimmed at the park, and looks a lot better.

MPT Green reported that the community lost a good neighbor Jack Jordan.

Alderman Russell Rupertus welcomed Debbie to the City, and asked council to focus and get on the same page and let's work as a team, get back to basics and work together to better the City.

He said that he and Mrs. Rizzo and many others had worked on updating the employee handbook, job descriptions over the last several years and turned in last week and would like for everybody to review and get it submitted ASAP.

POLICE REPORT

Interim Police Chief Aucoin reported he is still looking for ways to get new body cameras. Talking with T-Mobile, they offer a new program that wouldn't cost the City any money per month, still checking out ranges and coverage. I will have extra officers on duty for the July 4th weekend in the City and on the beach. Issued 195 citations for the month of May, various citations.

FIRE REPORT – No report – don't forget the July 3rd. dance for the JBVFD.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. **THE CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, CHAPTER 551, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 551.071 (PERSONNEL MATTERS)**

For the purpose of deliberating the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer (551.074 Personnel Matters) of the Police Chief / Interim City Administrator, City Secretary, Interim Police Chief, and any other person (s) employed or appointed by the City of Jamaica Beach

Council entered into executive session at 7:10 pm.

2. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO CONSIDER ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:51 p.m. Alderman Rupertus made a motion to extend Interim Police Chief Aucoin and Interim City Administrator Heiman for an additional three months, have the City run an advertisement for City Administrator and see who applies. Seconded by Alderman Madray. Motion carried 4 to 1, with Alderwoman Jones voting no. The motion passed 4/1.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Morris said If there was no further business to come before Council he would call for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Rupertus motioned the meeting be adjourned. Second by MPT Green. Motion was unanimous; Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.