



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 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
Alderman Sherwood Green
Alderman David Welch
Alderman Gil Madray
Alderwoman Lorraine "Taz" Jones*

The following staff was present:

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Communication Director for Galveston County Spencer Lewis and Constable Justin West came in support of abolishing the County Treasure's position, currently held by Hank Dugie.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING:

A Public Hearing was held at 5:30 pm for a re-plat.

Single-Family Residential District:

Legal Description: Abstract 121 Hall & Jones Survey Lot 8 Blk 9 Jamaica Beach
Sec 1 Replat of Jamaica Beach Section 25 A subdivision.
Abstract 121 Hall & Jones Survey Lot 11 Blk 9 Jamaica Beach Section 1
Replat of Galveston County, Texas, according to the Official Public
Records of Real Property of Galveston County, Texas.

Physical 16507 Francis Drake Road – Jamaica Beach Texas
16506 Mansvelt Road – Jamaica Beach, Texas

The re-plat was approved unanimously.

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 Drive; Came before council with a proposal to help our community by adding No Parking Signs along Bob Smith, starting at the bird sanctuary, and ending at the end of Bob Smith. Wouldn't interfere with seeing the sun sets or having mowers come in and mow along Bob Smith. The goal is to prevent people from coming into our community, nonresidents from fishing and disturbing the marsh lands, leaving trash and debris. "I joined the JBIC homeowners association to help improve the community and get involved".

Ginger Jones - 16612 Curlew; Voiced concerns about the possibility of raising residents water rates again and wanted to see what other communities are paying currently, and is there a reason why we need to raise the rates. Reminded everyone to come out and vote in April.

Andrea Spearing - by phone - 16617 Jamaica Beach Road; Couldn't hear the meeting, and wanted to know why and please address the issue and correct it. Thanked council for being able to address and speak at council meetings by phone, thanked the Chief of Police for his report that's in the council packet, it has important information for citizens, thanked Director of Operations Quintero for his report and removing the sand on Buccaneer and restriping the road on Buccaneer, beach side. Would like to see a four way stop sign installed at Buccaneer and Jamaica Beach Road, to protect both pedestrians, golf carts and vehicles for entering the beach.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:

Chief of Police Garivey's report was in the council packet, no questions asked.

Director of Operations Quintero's report was in the council packet, no questions asked.

City Secretary Nesbitt's report was in the council packet, no questions asked.

Fire Chief - No report

COMMENTS / REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Alderwoman Jones: Read her report, as follows:

I attended the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association and talked with my friend and our Texas State Representative Terri Leo Wilson. There were Texas Marshalls, Sheriffs, Constables, and Galveston's Chief of Police also there. It was a sea of Officers. Most of you know that my passion is to share our Stars for Troops with our 1stResponders.

Jerry Mohn, the Chairman of WGIPOA allowed me to share a brief statement about Stars for Troops. I was able to talk to the entire group about our mission and asked for flags to be donated and dropped off at City Hall. As always, it was well received. I was able to share a lot of stars that day and met some very fine men in uniform. The video is on FaceBook in my group: Jamaica Beach Reporters and on Youtube.

I wanted more clarification about increasing our Reserves from 18 to 30. I made an appointment with Chief Garivey and took a friend with me, Debra Tabbert. Many of our questions could be answered in the Jamaica Beach Police Department Standard of Operations. I asked for a copy of it. Chief Garivey explained per the Mayor, the Department Standard of Operations could be obtained with an Open Record Request. Our discussion was very helpful. Thank you, Chief for taking the time to explain and clarify several of our questions.

Debbie, I have an ORR for you,

As I do every year, I went to the Galveston Courthouse and got Voter Registration Cards. I will be leaving some with the City Secretary here at City Hall and I will have a few available with me too. If you would like to register to vote for the next city election you will need to do that before April 5th.

We currently have 764 registered voters in Jamaica Beach.

Three seats are up for election this year, my seat, Gil Madray's seat, and the Mayor's seat.

Alderman Madray – "Let's considering having two meetings a month again. Director of Operations Quintero asked me to look over our current building permit fees, and schedules, which I have, I also visited with Nola, she is very helpful and knowable on all the building permits and requirements, we discussed the ones to consider increasing and also increasing fees for inspections, I gave the information back to Robert. I attended the JBIC meeting, last week, it was a very good meeting, they have a lot of good things going on, working to clean up different areas in the city, as well as the beautification committee, all working together in the best interest of the City, everybody working together".

MPT Rupertus - Skipping his report until next month, will be giving a detailed report on the cities standings with projects that have been completed and projects still going on. "The main issues we're having currently in the city is with our water supply, we will be discussing that as well at a later date. Please call dispatch, for all non-emergency calls, the reason to call dispatch is they keep a log and have a record of all calls made, so please call 409-737-1800".

Alderman Welch – "Huge thank you to all the volunteers at the park, they did a wonderful job, and Mr. Mayor, just a comment, would we consider having semi-monthly meeting again".

Alderman Green: - Hoped everyone had a good holiday season and hope it doesn't rain too much tomorrow.

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.*

Approval of minutes from the Regular City Council meeting 11-21-2022

Motion made to discuss and approve by Alderman Welch, seconded by Alderman Madray.

VOTE

4 AYES (Madray, Jones, Welch, Green)

0 NAYS

1 ABSTAINED (MPT Rupertus)

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01 RENEWING ORDINANCE 2018-6; JUVENILE CURFEW FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEARS. Quintero

Motion made to discuss by Alderman Welch, seconded by MPT Rupertus.

Motion to approve as written tonight, and bring back with amendments to Section D at the next meeting.

VOTE

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

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

2. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02 ORDERING THE MAY 6, 2023, GENERAL ELECTION. Nesbitt

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

VOTE

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

0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED

3. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-05; ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RESERVE POLICE FORCE FOR THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH.** Garivey

Motion to discuss by MPT Rupertus, seconded by Alderman Welch.

Motion made by Alderman Welch to approve with striking Section 4, seconded by MPT Rupertus.

VOTE
5 AYES (Madray, Jones, Welch, MPT Rupertus, Green)
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED

4. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-8; TO ADOPT THE 2020 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE.** Quintero
Motion made to discuss and approve by Alderman Madray, seconded by Alderman Green.

VOTE
5 AYES (Madray, Jones, Welch, MPT Rupertus, Green)
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED

5. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01 SUPPORTING THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE COUNTY TREASURER IN GALVESTON.** Morris
Motion to approve by Alderman Welch, seconded by Alderman Green.

VOTE
5 AYES (Madray, Jones, Welch, MPT Rupertus, Green)
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED

6. **DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A RE-PLAT OF LOT 8 BLK 9 AND LOT 11 BLOCK 9 IN SECTION 25 A SUBDIVISION, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 16507 FRANCIS DRAKE AND 16506 MANSVELT ROAD, JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS.**

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

Approved by Planning and Zoning Commission earlier.

VOTE
5 AYES (Madray, Jones, Welch, MPT Rupertus, Green)
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED

7. **DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE JOHN D. MERCER & ASSOCIATES AUTHORITY TO POST THE NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR 2023 WATERLINE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.** Quintero

Motion made to discuss and approve by MPT Rupertus, seconded by Alderman Green.

VOTE
5 AYES (Madray, Jones, Welch, MPT Rupertus, Green)
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED

8. **DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATIONS.** Quintero

Motion to discuss and approve by MPT Rupertus, seconded by Alderman Welch.

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

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

After much discussion about making Bob Smith a no parking area, it was tabled to discuss at the next council meeting or workshop.

10. DISCUSSION, ONLY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING WATER RATES. Rupertus & Quintero

After much discussion, Mayor Morris stated that the city has very serious problems with infrastructure, and it needs much needed repairs in our city, and asked "how do we speed the process up to take care of these problems, we operate on a very small budget and these things we need are very expensive items, do we take out a bond, raise property taxes, raise water rates, increase trash rates or possible adding a drainage fee for a few years to help with the extreme cost of water related issues, and where to find funds to pay for the issues". This item was tabled for future workshops and meetings.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Morris reported he is working with Tiki Island to hire jointly a building inspector, "we hired a code enforcement office to help with some of the issues we currently have in the city". Thanked the beautification team for doing a great job. Will continue updating Ordinances, building fees, collaborating with the police department and municipal Judge on updating court fines. Still working on restriping the roads, making pedestrian walkways from Buccaneer to the beach, waiting on templates to finish striping other areas. "I will be doing a state of the city next month during our business meeting".

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Alderman Welch, seconded by Alderman Madray, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm. Unanimously.