



# CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 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  
Alderwoman Lorraine "Taz" Jones  
Alderman David Welch*

*The following staff was present:*

*Director of Operations Robert Quintero  
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 Mayor Pro-Tem Rupertus to the U.S. and Texas flags.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

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.

**Anderia Spearing – 16617 Jamaica Beach Road:** Discussed agenda item number two concerning the LED sign in front of City Hall, she is opposed to the sign being installed and the city needs to look at its light Ordinance.

### **COMMENTS / REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**

Alderman Jones, read her report to council:

Our Fire Chief, Kyle Baden, mentioned to me that our EMT's needed new recliners for the EMT apartment.

I called a Marci Maloy who contacted the Jamaica Janes and the Jamaica Beach Social Club. Together they raised \$1600.00. Jodi with Star Fine Furniture is donating the 2<sup>nd</sup> recliner. They will be delivered Tuesday to the EMS apartment at the Jamaica Beach Fire Department. There is some left over, and they are going to purchase a few kitchen items with that. A BIG thank you to our generous social groups.

I can report that our Stars for Troops Volunteers have now shared over 4000 stars with active military members, Veterans, and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. Stars have also been shared with our Border Patrol Officers. Our goal is to make sure that our military and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders know that we here in Jamaica Beach appreciate them. If you would like to help package and share stars, please contact me.

The West Galveston Island Property Owners Association meeting will be Saturday October 22: 9am at the Galveston Country Club. Our state congressman, Randy Weber will be the guest speaker.

Mayor, Mr. Heiman officially resigned as of October 14, but you have asked for him to stay for an unspecified amount of time. Mayor the citizens of Jamaica Beach deserve to know the date of when Mr. Heiman will no longer be on the payroll. I hope that you will include that date in your message tonight.

**Alderman Madray - No report**

**Alderman Welch:** Truck or Treat will be at the city park on the October 29, 2022, along with National Night Out, the police department will be there serving hot dogs and other things, so come out and participate, and bring lots of candy from 5 to 7 pm.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Rupertus:** "Will communicate better on what's going on within the city, keep residents updated. The city is making great progress on projects. Completed three phases of the waterline replacement project and are in the engineering phase of phase four, which will include this year Luis Scott, Captain Kidd, and all of Jamaica Cove Road. The beach is looking better than it has in several years, with new beach signs, traffic control and the dune fencing which will help rebuild our dunes. When the dunes are built up again, and a new phase for the beach project for vegetation. Some beachfront residents have pathways through the dunes when they walk to the beach, they have worn down the dunes, I would encourage these homeowners to build dune walkovers to protect the dunes and vegetation. The Road project, a greatly needed project, thanks to the County that matched funds, which cost the city around \$400,000.00 as apposed to \$800,000.00. The beautification project at the park looks fantastic, city hall finally got some much-needed updates, it's been power washed and painted, it looks great. The city has a lot of things going on and coming up, we as council members need to set a goal session, talk about a capital improvement plan, not just for this year but for the next five years, and figure out how to fund these projects, I think that's what the city needs. I want to give a big thank you to a group of great citizens, positive, motivated citizens. Jessie Zapata, mowing and edging the bird sanctuary off of Bob Smith, Tom and Lillian Quigley, Justin Stiff, always keeping an eye out for our city, Kaylynn Williford, she has great ideas and even got on the board for JBIC to make a difference. I know I'm missing some, just a quick list. I will work harder on my communication".

**Alderman Green - No report**

**REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:**

Director of Operations Quintero reported that R & A Road Boring was in the city last week installing a new water line between John Silver and Francis Drake and finished within the week. "During the installation, several palm trees were located and transplanted to the esplanade on Buccaneer and several more trees were located and will be moved and planted in other areas in the city. Met with city engineers Mercer & Mercer and found out we currently have a 6 line and will not need to install a new one for the next phase of the waterline project, which will be a nice savings on the project. We have installed most of the new street signs, had a few missing but they have been ordered, and will be installed soon. We will sell the old city signs, not sure when or the price at this time, and use the funds for more beautification. The park is looking wonderful. I get your complaints, and I am working on them, I can't get them all taken care of in one day."

Director of Finance Nesbitt reported that we received the second payment on the grant money from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for a total of \$200,520.78. She stated "I will be opening a separate account to disburse these funds and Robert will find someone to manage these funds. We hired Jessica Sark as our Administrative Assistant, she started on 10/12/2022, she lives here in Jamaica Beach with her family, and will be a great asset to our staff. We received \$1,382.90 from FEMA on our claim from the winter storm, Robert is currently working on an appeal for the remainder of

the claim, around \$4,500.00. I will be sending out last quarter financials by the end of the month, wanted to get everything posted to close out the year."

Lieutenant Posey reported for the police department on the number of various calls and citations.

Calls for service - 52

Wellness checks - 32

Business checks - 279

Arrests - 6

Citations issued - 288

11 of the citations were City Ordinance violations, dog at large, glass on beach, golf carts.

Update on the security camera's, we are still waiting on the electrician to get an address so CenterPoint can install service to the pole at Bob Smith and 3005.

Fire Chief Kyle Baden - 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 the tabled minutes for corrections from the Regular City Council meeting 9-19-2022*
2. *Approval of minutes from the Special Meeting on 9-26-2022*

*Alderman Madray made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Alderman Welch.*

**VOTE:**

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

**0 NAYS**

**MOTION PASSED**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-10 DESIGNATING CITY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (H-GAC) FOR 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

Alderman Green made the motion to discuss, seconded by MPT Rupertus. Alderman David Welch agreed to serve on the committee. Alderman Green made the motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Madray.

**VOTE:**

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

**0 NAYS**

**MOTION PASSED**

2. **DISCUSSION, ONLY NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON A QUOTE FROM ENTECH SIGNS TO INSTALL A 3X7 LED DOUBLE FACE FULL COLOR OUTDOOR DIGITAL SIGN.**

Alderman Madray made the motion to discuss, seconded by MPT Rupertus.

After much discussion, from all council, this has been tabled for a future meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Morris reported that he's very excited about the new park/beautification committee, "they are a very active group of volunteers doing a lot of work at the city park and all over the city with the beautification project. Passed the new budget and we have new project, we are looking forward to starting them. Third phase of the street project is coming, with will include a beach crossing, just waiting on Lucas Construction and their time schedule is, Halloween activities will be at the city park on October 29, for kids and then adults."

**Comments from Link Robinson, Chairman of the hiring committee put together to hire the new Police Chief, along with 9 other members including Scott Rogers, Steve Spicer, Alderman David Welch, Luminate Mark Posey, City Secretary Debbie Nesbitt, Director of Operations Robert Quintero, MPT Russell Rupertus and Mayor Clay Morris. "Had 9 applicants apply from the state and actually around the country, narrowed it down to three candidates, one candidate clearly**

stood out in our minds, conducted three full interviews. We were looking for someone who had previous chief of police, costal experience, supervisory and someone who had dealt with hurricanes, when it came down to choosing, it was a clear and unanimous decision and it's my pleasure and recommendation to present to Council and the City our nominee Raymond A. Garivey, Jr".

**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.

Entered into Executive Session at 6:40 pm.

- a. For the purpose of deliberating the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer (§551.074 Personnel Matters) Police Chief and City Secretary

**RECONVENE** into Open Session and consider action, if any, on items discussed in Executive Session.

Entered back into open session at 7:12 pm

Motion was made by MPT Rupertus to offer Raymond A. Garivey, Jr the position of Chief of Police for the City of Jamaica Beach starting immediately with a starting salary of \$80,000.00, with a probationary period of six months. Seconded by Alderman Madray.

VOTE:

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

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Mayor Morris swore in Raymond A. Garivey, Jr. as the new Chief of Police for the City of Jamaica Beach.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Alderman Welch made the motion to adjourn, second by MPT Rupertus, motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:24 pm.