



# CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2022  
6:00 P.M.

### ROLL CALL OF ALDERMEN

The following Councilmember's were present:

Mayor Clay Morris  
MPT Russell Rupertus  
Alderman Sherwood Greed - Absent  
Alderman Gil Madray  
Alderwoman Taz Jones  
Alderwoman Marci Kurtz-Hoffman - Absent

The following staff was present:

Director Brad Heiman  
Director Ana Mondragon  
City Secretary Debbie Nesbitt

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

With a quorum present, Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance lead by Mayor Pro-Tem Rupertus to the U.S. and Texas flags.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Gilbert L. Giron with the Regional Flood Insurance Division of FEMA.

Mr. Giron talked about the new 2.0 risk rating and how it will affect residents of Jamaica Beach and the cost of flood insurance, answered residents' concerns and questions.

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

Charles Stroud came before council and introduced himself as the area regional manager with US Water and wanted to let the council know it was an honor and privilege to serve the City of Jamaica Beach, he could be reached 24-7 if needed and Byron Hughey would be servicing the city. Will try and make monthly meeting to answer any questions.

Ginger Jones, 16612 Curlew, asked about the new committee, Board of Adjustments "is that a committee to get a variance", Mayor Morris explained it would be discussed later in the agenda. Mrs. Jones reminded everyone to come out and vote.

Dale Hubert, 16720 Sandpiper, asked if anyone has read the book by James Brice, A Holy Roman Empire, he had not personally read the book, but it talked about corrupt governments. Would like better transparency and would like a stack of open records requests on the desk, so he can fill them and submit them.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

#### CONSIDER FOR ACTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

#### REGULAR MEETING – January 17, 2022, and Town Hall Meeting February 7, 2022

MPT Rupertus made the motion to approve. Seconded by Alderwoman Jones.

#### VOTE:

3 AYES (Madray, Jones, Rupertus)

2 ABSENT (Green, Hoffman)

0 NAYS

**MOTION PASSED**

1. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION WITH THE COUNTY OF GALVESTON MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT.** Mondragon

Motion made by Alderman Madray to approve, seconded by Alderwoman Jones.

**VOTE:**

3 AYES (Madray, Jones, Rupertus)

0 NAYS

2 ABSENT (Green, Hoffman)

**MOTION PASSED**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02 AMENDING THE DUNE PROTECTION AND BEACH PLAN OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, AS AMENDED, TO PROVIDE STANDARDS FOR ACCESS AND PARKING ON THE BEACH; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** Mondragon

Motion made by Alderman Madray to discuss, seconded by Alderwoman Jones.

Approved with amendments to A. 1. Page one – “The Street “Change to 15-mile road on the south side. And page two - Omit (There is no access point near the west end side of the Beach at this time. Therefore, a safe turnaround must be established)

**VOTE:**

2 AYES (Madray, Jones)

0 NAYS

2 ABSENT (Green, Hoffman)

1 ABSTAIN (Rupertus)

**MOTION PASSED**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-03 AMENDING CITY CODE TO RESTRUCTURE THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; MAKING VARIOUS FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT; FINDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.** Mondragon

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

**VOTE:**

3 AYES (Madray, Jones, Rupertus)

0 NAYS

2 ABSENT (Green, Hoffman)

**MOTION PASSED**

2. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01 TO APPOINT THE OFFICERS OF THE JAMAICA BEACH BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS TO PERFORM ALL NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE DUTIES TO CONDUCT BUSINESS OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS.** Mondragon

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

**VOTE:**

3 AYES (Madray, Jones, Rupertus)

0 NAYS

2 ABSENT (Green, Hoffman)

**MOTION PASSED**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORTS** – Director of Operations Mondragon reported that she has been working with FEMA on grants in connection with Tropical Storm Laura, and the winter storm of 2021. She completed the City's Mitigation Plan, reported on building permits issued and completed, purchased new software to help with the permitting process. The

software will enable users to be able to apply for a permit on-line with new website, it will make it easier and faster to monitor and track permits, reported on the progress of the water line project and updates on the street progress. Director of Finance Nesbitt reported the city will be holding a general election on May 7, 2022, Nesbitt stated we have three alderman positions that are up this year. The new city website is up and live, we still have a long way to go, just be patient, it will get there. The new video equipment in the council chambers should be installed next week, we will start holding our council meeting live on Facebook hopefully in March."

#### **ALDERMEN REPORTS:**

Alderwoman Hoffman – absent

Alderwoman Jones – Attended the West End Galveston Properties Owners Association meeting, very well represented by the animal control district with slides and videos on coyotes, "you can view all videos on the Jamaica Beach Reporters Facebook page, I encourage everyone to attend these meetings, they are highly informative." Have a comment on something on our agenda tonight, she discussed the Citizens Comments section; discussed updating the order of decorum to better understand the rules and regulations on public comments, Jones stated everyone has the freedom of speech.

MPT Rupertus – Rupertus stated to sum it up; we are kicking butt, we are getting so much accomplished in the city, I have never seen so many projects going on at one time, we are just making great progress. JBVFD is in need for new bunker jackets, it has been 8 to 10 years since they got new ones, \$1,500.00 would pay for each one a new one, please everyone let us help them, who help take care of us".

Alderman Madray – Stated he also attended the property owners meeting also, "it was a highly informative meeting, had a large turnout from around the area community representation. "Talked to the TXDOT representative as to our issues at Buccaneer and Bob Smith and that he said he would move us up on his priority and if not, he will be checking back with him if we see nothing is getting done."

Alderman Green – absent

**POLICE REPORT** – Chief of police Heiman reported the police department is recreating their page on the new city website and also their face book page and hope to have it completed next month. Held a special training session for the beach patrol officers and with all the enhancements to the beach, we will have better coverage. "Still processing applications for reserve officers and we should be fully staffed by summer."

**FIRE REPORT** – No Report

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Morris reported the city has sewer issues, we are working to repair our water and wastewater operations, the wastewater plant, looking for grants from federal, state, and local agencies to help before it becomes a major issue. Will start looking at CERT, community emergency response team, and a community watch program within the next couple of months. Next meeting, our meeting should be live streamed. Morris stated "Taz you said something that was incorrect and I took offense to that; you said that public speaking can only be spoken of things on the agenda, and if you look at the agenda under citizens comments it states: comments may be general in nature or may address a specific agenda item, I just wanted to make sure we got that clear. The website will have a section for citizens to make comments and voice concerns, it is coming just be patient. "We have a lot going on in the city right now, we are running, not walking and I hate to see hurdles being thrown at us, and it's hard at times, most of the community is very thankful and understanding and encouraging and that means a lot to everyone on council."

#### **ADJOURN:**

Mayor Morris called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Madray made the motion, seconded by MPT Rupertus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.