



# CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

16628 San Luis Pass Road  
5264 Jamaica Beach  
Jamaica Beach, Texas 77554  
PH (409) 737-1142 FAX (409) 737-5211  
www.jamaicabeachtx.gov



---

## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**June 8, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

*Mayor Sharon Bower called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm*

*The following Council Members were present:*

*Mayor Sharon Bower  
Mayor Pro Tem Russell Rupertus  
Alderman David Welch  
Alderman Gil Madray  
Alderwoman Lorraine Jones  
Alderman Sherwood Green*

*The following staff were present:*

*Director of Operations - Robert Quintero  
Chief of Police - Raymond Garivey  
Finance Clerk - Ester Abrego*

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

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Raymond Garivey, Chief of Police, stated that the City of Jamaica Beach has two new officers to be sworn in, Officer Elizabeth McClain and Officer Clarence Erickson, and Officer Matthew Seurattan has been promoted to Corporal. Alderwoman Jones presented each officer with a repurposed star from a US flag as special recognition for those who serve from the City of Jamaica Beach. Chief Garivey also stated that he had the opportunity to grant a wish for cancer patient, Blaklee, from the Cleveland Texas area, whose wish was to spend time at the beach. Special thanks to BeachBox Vacation Rentals, Abigail's Reach, Rick's Beach Rentals, Academy, Jamaica Beach Police Department, Nates Seafood, City of Jamaica Beach, Way West Grill & Pizzeria, and Jamaica Beach Social Club.

### **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING:**

Robert Quintero, Director of Operations, stated that no Public Hearing is going to take place at this time and will be rescheduled for June 22, 2023. A Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday June 12, 2023.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- **Danny Middlebrooks:** 4120 West Bayside Way, lives directly across from lift station # 7. There is a temporary generator that has become a nuisance to the area and the neighborhood. This generator turns on 24 hours 7 days a week for the past 3 months. Mr. Middlebrooks requests that the city please consider correcting this temporary solution and find the funds to correct this problem.

- **Paul Wendt:** 16531 Mansfield, stated that during the mayor's campaign along with Mrs. Jones stated that there would be an audit, but he sees nothing on the agenda concerning such said audit. Mayor Bower stated that she would address this under the mayor's report. Mr. Wendt was also concerned about the Cares Act with the Police Department being overpaid, and what happened to this item. Mayor Bower stated that Ms. Carmack had since left and could not get a statement from her.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Sharon Bower stated that the City of Jamaica Beach and WGIPOA 2023 Hurricane Planning, Evacuation, & Recovery joint meeting will take place on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the City Hall Public Service Building. Food will be served. The Jamaica Beach Volunteer Fire Department annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and the band starts at 6:00 p.m. at the city park. Also, the Jamaica Beach Improvement Committee city-wide garage sale will take place on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> where you will be able to drive street to street to find great deals and surprises.

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

- Chief of Police, Garivey - Report attached for April 2023 – No questions were asked.
- Director of Operations, Quintero - Report attached – No questions were asked.
- Fire Chief, Baden - No report

#### **ALDERMAN REPORTS:**

**Mayor Pro Tem Rupertus:** No report.

**Alderman Green:** No report.

**Alderwoman Jones:** stated she along with Director of Operations Robert Quintero and Police Chief Garivey attended the FEMA Disaster Meeting which was held for all of Galveston County disaster meeting. Alderwoman Jones stated that she learns that the school districts will be providing school buses for evacuations along with propane and school buildings for shelter. Plenty of resources will be provided for the citizens of our county. Alderman Jones completed the Open Records and Open Meetings training and encouraged all Elected officials along with city staff should take this course which is good for two years and available on YouTube.

**Alderman Madray:** No report.

**Alderman Welch:** No report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **1. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPOINT ROBERT QUINTERO, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, AS THE INTERM CITY SECRETARY. (Bower)**

Mayor Sharon Bower stated that the discussion and consideration to take action to appoint Robert Quintero, Director of Operations as the Interim City Secretary, motion was taken to discuss and approved. Mayor Bower stated that Georgia has resigned her position and Debbie who was the primary City Secretary left and from the transitions Ester Abrego who was the water clerk has now taken the position as our Finance Clerk. Jessica Sark has taken over the day-to-day activities. Jennifer Morse has now taken the position as Court Clerk. A new system, Kenect, has been implemented and allows text from our main number to allow an additional method of access to the court clerk.

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

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

**VOTE**

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

**0 NAYS**

**MOTION PASSED**

**2. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR CITY HALL EMPLOYEES. (Quintero)**

Mayor Bower held a discussion to consider the possibility of taking action to approve modifications to the holiday schedule for City Hall Employees to add Martin Luther King and Juneteenth holidays and remove New Year's Eve holiday.

*Motion made by Alderman Welch to **discuss**, seconded by Alderwoman Jones*

*Motion made by Alderman Welch to **approve**, seconded by Alderwoman Jones*

**VOTE**

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

**0 NAYS**

**MOTION PASSED**

**3. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-08 APPOINTING GIL MADRAY AS MAYOR PRO TEMPORE. (Bower)**

*Motion made by Alderwoman Jones to **discuss**, seconded by Alderman Green*

*Motion made by Alderwoman Jones to **approve**, seconded by Alderman Green*

**VOTE**

**3 AYES (Green, Jones, Madray)**

**0 NAYS**

**2 ABSTAIN (Rupertus, Welch)**

**MOTION PASSED**

**4. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT FOR CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP WITH AMERIWASTE. (Quintero)**

*Motion made by Alderman Green to **discuss**, seconded by Alderman Madray*

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

**VOTE**

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

**0 NAYS**

**MOTION PASSED**

**5. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVING RESOLUTION 2023-04 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN TIPS PURCHASING COOPERATIVE OFFERED BY REGION VIII EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER. (Quintero)**

*Motion made by Alderman Green to **discuss**, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rupertus*

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

**VOTE**

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

**0 NAYS**

**MOTION PASSED**

**6. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPOINT STEVE HILDAGO TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION. (Quintero)**

*Motion made by Alderman Welch to **discuss**, seconded by Alderman Madray*

*Motion made by Alderman Madray to **approve**, seconded by Alderman Welch*

**VOTE**

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

**0 NAYS**

**MOTION PASSED**

**7. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO APPROVING THE HIRING BRANCH CONSTRUCTION TO REBUILD AND REPAIR WASTEWATER LIFT STATION #7, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$135,000.**

Mayor Sharon Bower requested to table this discussion item to the next meeting.

*Motion made by Alderman Green to **discuss**, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rupertus*

*Motion made by Alderman Welch to **table**, seconded by Alderman Madray*

**VOTE**

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

**0 NAYS**

**MOTION PASSED**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Sharon Bower thanked everyone for their patience as the new staff gets up to speed. A new posting for the water clerk was posted and we had a great response to this position. Tina Sifuentes was the candidate for this position and has accepted the offer. The phone system has been updated and all the options have been routed to the right departments. The website is still being worked on. The primary concern right now is the budget, as we have lost two City Secretaries, our current system is not up to date as it should be, but the staff have been working on understanding the status and seeing where we are currently at. Debbie, our past city secretary, and Ester have been doing a great job of getting us up to date, and by the next council meeting on June 22, we should have an update. There have been lots of water breaks and we are in the red. We will need to make an amendment to our budget to accommodate that short fall. Mid July we should have the first draft of our 1-to-5-year plan, while working with Mercer Engineering with the support of some additional citizens to address our water issue to put a plan together. Blackboard system is being working on to communicate to our citizens and updates daily for special messages.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION OR GIVE DIRECTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

Consult with TML attorney on pending litigation and settlements.

**No vote was required**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion made by Alderman Welch to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Madray. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.