



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2024
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 Gil Madray
Alderman Sherwood Green
Alderswoman Lorraine Jones
Alderman Russell Rupertus*

The following Council Members were absent:

Alderman David Welch

The following staff were present:

*City Administrator – Kendal Francis
Police Chief – Raymond Garivey
Director of Development – Robert Quintero
Finance Clerk - Ester Abrego
Water Clerk – Tina Sifuentes*

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

INVOCATION: Bishop Cheney

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Bower

- Saturday, January 27, 2024 – Town Hall Meeting at 9:00 am at JB Fire Station.
- February 16, 2024 – filing deadline for Alderman candidates. Currently there are three at large positions open.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:

- **City Administrator, Francis** – Oral – No Questions
 - Spring Clean Up – Saturday, April 6, 2024
 - New Code Enforcement Officer – Begins in February
 - New phone system transition, phones will be down beginning at 10 am
- **Chief of Police, Garivey** – No Questions
 - Thanked everyone for coming to Pie in the Face and donating toys
 - Mardi Gras Parade – February 10, 2024

- Boots and Bling fundraiser was enough to purchase a boat, and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- **Director of Operations, Quintero** – No Questions
 - Dune Walkover locations were not selected by Jamaica Beach, locations provided by FEMA.
- **Fire Chief, Baden** – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Sharon Bower presented the minutes for January 11, 2024.

*Motion made by Alderwoman Jones to **approve**, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Madray*

VOTE

3 AYES (Green, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Welch)

0 NAYS

1 ABSTAIN (Rupertus)

MOTION PASSED

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Madray: No report

Alderman Green: No report

Alderwoman Jones: No report

Alderman Rupertus: No report

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve contract for construction of dune walkovers:

The City received FEMA funding to replace the public beach access dune walkovers. In cooperation with the Texas Department of Emergency Management, and having completed a public procurement process, city staff is recommending authorization of a construction agreement to replace three walkovers.

Mayor Bower read the above caption. Still no approval from FEMA to move forward with the project. Will be brought forward in meeting on April 11, 2024.

*Motion made by Alderman Rupertus to **remove from table**, seconded by Alderman Green*

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Rupertus, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Welch)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Green to **table**, seconded by Alderwoman Jones*

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Rupertus, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Welch)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve Ordinance 2024-01:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS; PROVIDING TO HOLD A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 4, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THREE (3) ALDERMAN POSITIONS AND PROVIDING DETAILS RELATING TO THE HOLDING OF SUCH ELECTION; FINDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Mayor Bower read the above caption and there was no discussion.

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Madray to **approve**, seconded by Alderwoman Jones*

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Rupertus, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Welch)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

2. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve Ordinance 2024-03:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SETTING OF AN ELECTION FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A CITY SALES TAX ELECTION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SUBCHAPTER B. IMPOSITION OF SALES AND USE TAXES BY MUNICIPALITIES, sec. 321.101. TAX AUTHORIZED, SETTING THE CITY ELECTION FOR May 4th, 2024 WHEREIN VOTERS WILL BE ASKED TO IMPOSE A TWO PERCENT (2.0%) CITY SALES TAX.

Mayor Bower read the above caption and there was no discussion.

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

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Rupertus, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Welch)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

3. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve contract with Galveston County for election services:

This contract is being entered into pursuant to Texas Election Code, Chapter 31, Subchapter D for the purpose of ensuring that Galveston County and the Entity understand the tasks each is to perform in connection with the May 4, 2024, General Election and any subsequent runoff election.

Mayor Bower read the above caption and there was no discussion.

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

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Rupertus, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Welch)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

4. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve Resolution 2024-01 for Renewal and Optimization of Certificates of Deposit:

The city has four current Certificates of Deposit that are nearing their maturity date. Authorize the city administrator to identify the combination of maturity date and interest rate that optimizes the city's investment.

Mayor Bower read the above caption and there was no discussion.

*Motion made by Alderwoman Jones to **approve**, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Madray*

VOTE

4 AYES (Green, Rupertus, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Welch)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

5. Discussion and consideration concerning a proposed city Procurement Policy:

The acquisition of goods and services should be made in a manner and method which provides for the prudent expenditure of City funds; provides for maximum protection of the taxpayer; prevents waste, conflict of interest, and impropriety; provides for equal access and opportunity in an open and competitive environment to all suppliers, with regard to factors related to quality, cost and availability of the goods and services; and which comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.

Mayor Bower read the above caption and the council reviewed the slideshow provided by Kendal Francis. Items discussed were sole sourcing, state law for underutilized businesses, requisitions and procedures, financial management policy, city's requirement for engineering for projects, and revisions to proposed policy.

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

6. Discussion and consideration concerning a proposed Code of Ethics & Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials:

The citizens of Jamaica Beach are entitled to have a fair, ethical and accountable local government that has earned the public's full confidence for integrity. This Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials for members of the City Council and the City's boards and commissions will help assure public confidence in the integrity of local government and its effective and fair operation.

Mayor Bower read the above caption. Items discussed were city charter, which Jamaica Beach does not have, government codes for resources, social media policy for elected officials, sole point of contact for city comments, and adding City Administrator as contact in manual.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Appreciation from citizens for Code of Ethics and Conduct Policy
- Short term rental delays in application processing due to issues with issuing of STR registration numbers, taxes are being collected by VRBO and Airbnb and are being remitted to Galveston, and non-compliant renters. No enforcement for no registration certificate for now.
- Town Hall Meeting will not have call in option. Flip charts around the fire station with issues/concerns and proposed solutions. Citizens will have colored dots for flip charts to select ideas you do and do not support.
- New Code Enforcement Officer is Reginald Randle.
- Auctioning off of current city boat.
- Cancellation of meeting of March 14 due to repairs of the elevator for handicap access. About 3-4 weeks of work without access.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Alderman Rupertus to **adjourn**, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Madray. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.