



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 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
Alderswoman Lorraine Jones
Alderman Russell Rupertus
Alderman David Welch*

The following Council Members were absent:

Alderman Sherwood Green

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: REV. JUDE EKENDEDILICHUKWU EZUMA, HOLY FAMILY PARISH
GALVESTON-BOLIVAR**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:

- **City Administrator, Francis** – Oral / Read Aloud, provided important information on city happenings including new council candidates, water line project, STR registrations heavy trash cleanup– No Questions
- **Chief of Police, Garivey** – None
- **Director of Operations, Quintero** – None
- **Fire Chief, Baden** – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Sharon Bower presented the minutes for February 8th regular city council meeting.
*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Madray to **approve**, seconded by Alderwoman Welch*

VOTE

3 AYES (Welch, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Green)

0 NAYS

1 ABSTAIN (Rupertus)

MOTION PASSED

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Madray: No report

Alderman Rupertus: No report

Alderman Welch: No report

Alderwoman Jones: Gave information on early voting times for the primary election. Fri 2/22 8am-5pm, Sat.2/23 7am – 7pm, Sunday 2/24 1pm – 7pm, Mon 2/26 – Fri 3/1 7am-7pm, Election Day is March 5th 7am – 7pm. Encouraged citizens to get out and vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and consideration of employee handbook:

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Madray to **discuss**, seconded by Alderman Welch*

Mayor Pro Tem Madray requested that a signed job application be submitted for every application.

In response to a citizen comment, Council asked Administrator Francis to have the policy reviewed by legal.

2. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve resolution for the county's mosquito spraying services.

*Motion was made by Alderman Rupertus to **discuss**, seconded by Alderman Welch.*

Motion was made by Alderman Rupertus, seconded by Alderman Welch to approve the resolution.

VOTE

4 AYES (Welch, Jones, Madray, Rupertus)

1 ABSENT (Green)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

3. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve reduction of sewer tap charge for Jack Birdsong.

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Madray to **discuss**, seconded by Alderman Welch*

Motion made by Alderman Welch, seconded by Alderman Rupertus to approve a reduction in the sewer tap fee that will result in a \$2,250 refund to Mr. Jack Birdsong

VOTE

4 AYES (Welch, Jones, Madray, Rupertus)

1 ABSENT (Green)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

4. Discussion, consideration and take action to approve appointment to the Board of Adjustments.

Motion made by Alderwoman Jones to appoint Susan Armstrong to Board of Adjustments, seconded by Alderman Rupertus

VOTE

4 AYES (Welch, Jones, Madray, Rupertus)

1 ABSENT (Green)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

5. Discussion and consideration of potential criteria for city-wide parking ordinance.

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

The mayor facilitated a discussion of possible options for a city-wide parking ordinance including no parking on the streets, no parking at certain times, or leaving it as it is.

Rupertus wanted to leave it as it is.

The mayor reported that approximately 120 parking citations were issued in 2023 in the city and another 47 on the beach. Parking too close to an intersection or parking facing the wrong direction were the majority of the citations issued.

The narrow width of the streets was stated as a concern and that it should be considered in any new ordinance.

Alderman Welch mentioned the importance of protecting the Right to Assemble.

Citizens asked about the legality of parking in the City Park/Pool parking lot and for how long.

Mayor Bower said more research will be done and a draft ordinance will be brought forward at a later date.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Bower thanked the three current Aldermen, Rupertus, Welch, and Green for their service. She also reminded everyone that May 4, 2024, is General Election Day.

She also announced a new format for remote citizen input. The call-in system will be stopped. Beginning with the March 14, 2024, meeting, citizens will submit their comments in writing electronically. Those comments will be read aloud at the council meeting at a normal speaking rate. When the three (3) minute time limit expires, reading will stop.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Madray to **adjourn**, seconded by Alderman Welch. Meeting adjourned at 7:02p.m.