



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**March 14, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Mayor Pro Tem Gil Madray called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

The following Council Members were present:

*Mayor Pro Tem Gil Madray
Alderswoman Lorraine Jones
Alderman Russell Rupertus
Alderman David Welch*

The following Council Members were absent:

*Mayor Sharon Bower
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: PASTOR KEL VAUGHAN, SEASIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Candidate Forums

- Wednesday March 27th
 - 6:30pm-8:00pm
 - City Park
- Sunday April 21st
 - 3:00pm – 4:30pm
 - City Park

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 CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Gil Madray presented the minutes for February 22nd regular city council meeting and the Racial Profiling Report.

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

VOTE

4 AYES (Rupertus, Welch, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Green)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Madray: No report

Alderman Rupertus: Reported that he had concerns with the 1st quarter budget report. He stated that general revenues and utility revenues are down. He questioned why the interest earnings were so low. He is concerned that the Hotel Occupancy Tax was not being spent. He wanted to see the council provided with additional reports on Holdings, Deposits, Check Registers, that used to be provided. He also wanted to be provided with information on the tickets issued to Short Term Rentals as to whether they were dismissed and why. He also stated that he wanted to discuss a known personnel issue.

Alderman Welch: No report

Alderwoman Jones: Reported that, she attended the Galveston's STR Task Force meeting. Galveston is working out a plan for better STR compliance, enforcement, communication, and collecting data. They plan to have 2 more meetings before they move forward with suggestions to the Galveston City Council.

Additionally, she spent a few afternoons with our State Representative Terri Leo Wilson. They went to the Ambassadors Preparatory Academy which is a tuition-free Charter School. They also attended their Motown Records Black History Day. It was a lot of fun and the kids were terrific! In character, they danced, they did lip singing and they gave oral reports about famous black people. The kids were terrific!

Also, they went to a press conference for Gulf Coast Outreach where she met Sheriff Ray Nolan and Les McColgin. With support from Terri and Sheriff Nolan, Les has set up 25 Free Narcan Dispensaries across the county. Terri Leo Wilson sponsored HB 629 the bill that provides funds for this program.

Jamaica Beach recently became the 26th participant in this FREE Narcan program and at our next meeting, we plan to have Sheriff Nolan, Les, and Terri here for a special presentation about this program.

According to GalvestonVotes.org, our voter turnout for this past election for Galveston County was 18.46%.

She stated that we need to get out and vote and encourage our friends and neighbors to vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve employee handbook.**

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

Administrator Francis noted that he had made a change to require all job applicants to submit a signed application. He also stated that the city attorney had reviewed and approved the handbook.

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

VOTE

4 AYES (Rupertus, Welch, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Green)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

2. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve Ordinance 2024-04.

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

Administrator Francis explained that a error was made on a previous ordinance and this new ordinance corrected that oversight and brought the city into compliance with state law.

Motion was made by Alderman Welch, seconded by Alderwoman Jones to approve the ordinance.

VOTE

4 AYES (Rupertus, Welch, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Green)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

3. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve the purchase of in-car camera system.

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

Alderman Welch stated that the purchase was needed.

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

VOTE

4 AYES (Rupertus, Welch, Jones, Madray)

1 ABSENT (Green)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

4. Discussion, consideration and take action to approve updated building permit fees.

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

Administrator Francis explained the reasons behind the proposed increase in fees as well as the proposed new road usage fees. He also explained that he felt staff needed more time to better refine the system. He recommended that the item be tabled until the next council meeting.

Motion made by Alderman Welch, seconded by Alderman Rupertus to table the item until the next council meeting.

VOTE
4 AYES (Welch, Jones, Madray, Rupertus)
1 ABSENT (Green)
0 NAYS
0 ABSTAIN
MOTION PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Alderman Welch to **adjourn**, seconded by Alderman Rupertus. Meeting adjourned at 6:45p.m.