



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**September 28, 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 Gil Madray
Alderswoman Lorraine Jones
Alderman David Welch
Alderman Russell Rupertus
Alderman Sherwood Green*

The following staff were present:

*Director of Operations – Robert Quintero
Police Lieutenant – Mark Posey
Finance Clerk - Ester Abrego
Water Clerk – Tina Sifuentes*

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **Jerry Jackson:** Would like to see action on STRs and buildings with no permits. Questioned if a committee could be formed to ensure citizens that build without permits could be corrected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Sharon Bower stated National Night Out and Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023. Chief Garivey and Sandy Denby have prizes and games ready to go.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:

- Chief of Police, Garivey – No report
- Director of Operations, Quintero – No report but stated that staff does a lot of work that is not included in reports. Would like to thank the staff for all they do.
- Fire Chief, Baden – No report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Sharon Bower presented the minutes for September 14, 2023

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

VOTE

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

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Madray: No report

Alderman Green: No report

Alderwoman Jones: The Community Emergency Response Team training, CERT, was held here at city hall. CERT is a nationwide program under FEMA to teach people to safely respond to emergency events and assist First Responders. This was a 24-hour class over a 2-weekend period. I recommend everyone to take the class. Hopefully, more advanced classes will be offered. Chief Garivey, thank you for coordinating with CERT to offer this class.

The Jamaica Beach Citizen's Police Academy Class held two more classes. One night we covered self-defense. Officer Matt wore a big red body protection suit, and we practiced punching, kicking, and stomping on him. What a guy. Last Tuesday, we had a visit from the Alvin Swat Team. They brought the tools they use to perform their job and we were able to see those up close. They are just the best of the best and are true heroes. Lt. Posey and Chief thanks again for providing an excellent class for our community. WGIPOA's guest speaker on October 28 will be our State Representative Terri Leo Wilson at the Galveston Country Club at 9am. I was invited to participate with Galveston's STR Task Force 2.0. Galveston Council Members David Finklea and Marie Robb organized this team to find solutions to STR issues. Mayor, I look forward to bringing information back for our city from this powerhouse committee. Stars for Troops: 5,437. Seven new groups have signed up for Stars for Troops.

Alderman Rupertus: No report

Alderman Welch: No report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR ACTION APPROVING AMENDING THE FOLLOWING IN THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 22-23 BUDGET (Bower)

- a. **Transfer \$199,000 from the General Fund to the Municipal Fund (vs. the \$271,000 that was in the approved FY 22-23 budget)**
- b. **Transfer \$433,000 from Municipal Fund Reserves to the FY 22-23 Municipal Budget. This was due to underestimating revenue and higher than anticipated water line repairs and wastewater sewer system failures.**

Mayor Sharon Bower stated there were multiple expenses in municipal funds with waterline breaks and sewer blower breaking. Contractor fees are higher than budgeted, and we are short. Revenue was slightly underpredicted.

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

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

VOTE

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

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

2. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND TAKE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH TO ISSUE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES (RFP) AND REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES (RFQ). (Bower)

Mayor Bower stated that Mercer is our current engineer and has been for 5 years. It is time to bid out engineering work. The city is not dissatisfied with the work, it just needs to be bid out again.

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

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

VOTE

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

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Sharon Bower stated there is a planning and zoning meeting on October 5, 2023, at 5:30 pm. A new trash ordinance was passed and will become effective November 1, 2023. The tight-fitting lid has been included in the previous ordinances but was just not enforced. If everyone in the community keeps their lid on their trash cans, the trash workers will not encounter any animals and if there is rain, the cans can get heavy. The purpose of the ordinance is to keep the city clean. We are looking for a City Administrator. Mr. Kent Myers with Clear Career Professionals is helping find the ideal candidate. We are hopeful the new employee will be in by January. Jessica Sark, our Permit Coordinator, has accepted a job with the Corps of Engineers. Three candidates have been interviewed to replace her, with one more interview in the morning. She hopes to introduce the new employee by the next meeting. The audit is progressing, so we should have the first round of the audit out soon. We are looking to update QuickBooks. David Torres, who is our maintenance worker, has had health issues and will be out. Robert has found someone who will be available for cleaning up and mowing. There will be someone moving sand around tomorrow on the beach entrance. We are working on monitoring permits and STRs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Convened into executive session at 6:20 pm

1. Security: Discuss IT security compliance
2. Discuss personnel related to City Administrator position.

RECONVENE:

Meeting reconvened into open session at 7:27 pm. No vote was required.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Alderman Green to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Welch. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.