



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 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 Russell Rupertus*

The following Council Members were absent:

*Alderman David Welch
Alderman Sherwood Green*

The following staff were present:

*Director of Operations – Robert Quintero
Police Chief – Raymond Garivey
Finance Clerk - Ester Abrego
Water Clerk – Tina Sifuentes
Building Clerk – Bailey Clement*

RECESS: *Mayor Bower called for a recess due to technical difficulties at 6:01 pm*

RECONVENE: *Mayor Bower reconvened the meeting at 6:10 pm*

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

1. PRESENTATION BY SALLY BAKKO WITH THE GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT ON THE COASTAL TEXAS STORM SURGE PROTECTION PROJECT.

Sally Bakko with the Gulf Coast Protection District attended the meeting to explain the Coastal Texas Storm Surge Protection Project, specifically on the dune and beach segment of the project. The following details about the project were mentioned: the Gulf Coast Protection District was created in 2021 by the Texas Legislature for the purpose of acting as a non-federal sponsor for projects. The Coastal Texas Project was authorized, but not funded, in 2022 by Congress. The Galveston Bay Storm Barrier System, The Bolivar Roads System, The Double Dune and Expanded Beach System, The Seawall Improvements, and some nonstructural improvements, are included. The GLO is the non-federal sponsor for the Coast Wide Ecosystem Restoration Projects, which includes beach nourishment for the South Padre Island Nourishment, was authorized for \$34.4 billion. The Texas Legislature appropriated \$200 million in advance as non-federal share for the Texas Coastal Project. Galveston beaches are listed as one the top 10 tourist sites in the state and are included in an upcoming sediment study that will allow the work of dunes for the beaches.

2. CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH PROCLAMATION OCTOBER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH.

Mayor Bower presented a proclamation claiming that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month to Melissa Joseph with the Resource and Crisis Center in Galveston. Melissa Joseph and Terry Rizzo addressed the council about the nature of their work and thanked the City of Jamaica Beach for the partnership.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **Ginger Jones:** stated that elections are coming up and Seaside Church will be the location for the polls. October 23 will begin the two-week early election, with the first week being open from 8 am to 5 pm and the second week to be open from 7 am to 7 pm. It will also be open on election day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Sharon Bower stated there will be a Planning and Zoning Committee meeting prior to the next City Council meeting. National Night Out and Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023. AmeriWaste will not be providing recycling services until October 20. Veteran Appreciation for Korean Veterans will be on Thursday, November 9. Please bring any names of vets forward. Introduced the new Building Clerk, Baily Clement.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:

- Chief of Police, Garivey – Citizens Police Academy was completed within the past 5 weeks and 11 citizens completed the academy. Chief Garivey presented plaques to the following graduates: Karen Anderson, Jerry Banner, Charie Carnes, Noelia Carnes, Sandy Denby, Suzanne Heard, Marci Hoffman, Lorraine Jones, Gina Renick, Terry Rizzo, Joan Watters. Special thanks to Lieutenant Posey and Corporal Seurattan for an amazing job. Graduates presented JBPD with a plaque to say thank you. Three families donated funds towards 7 new ballistic vests for the full-time officers, due to be delivered by mid-November.
- Director of Operations, Quintero – Recertification with Cahoon Consulting for insurance rates. Found old dune crossovers and will put an RFP out to begin work on the crossovers.
- Fire Chief, Baden – Presented a slideshow with a report that listed the number of firefighters and the duties that the volunteer fire department provides, as well as information on certifications obtained by members, information on grants that have been provided, response times, work on vehicles, and information on services that have been provided so far in 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Sharon Bower presented the minutes for September 28, 2023

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

VOTE

3 AYES (Rupertus, Jones, Madray)

0 NAYS

0 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSED

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Madray: No report

Alderman Green: Absent/No report

Alderwoman Jones: Thanked Chief Garivey and JBPD for the work they provided with the police academy. Stated that the academy was hard and scary and was provided a fake gun and asked when she felt she would be ready and need to use it. She stated failed because it was scary having the 10-ft tall Officer Seurattan come at her. Hopes this could be done again and she was given a better idea on what the PD does on a daily basis.

Alderman Rupertus: No report

Alderman Welch: Absent/No report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSSION ONLY ON PROPOSED WATER STRUCTURE INCREASES – DRAFT ORDINANCE 2023-10. (Bower)

- a. **Application fee from \$30 to \$50**
- b. **Water rate from \$28.75 to \$42 for first 2,000 gallons and from \$5 to 7.30 for each additional 1,000 gallons**
- c. **Volunteer Fire Department donation from \$4 to \$7**
- d. **Emergency Management donation from \$1 to \$3**
- e. **Water tap fee from \$2,145 to \$2,500**
- f. **Sewer tap fee from \$350 to \$4,500**
- g. **Delinquent payment fee from \$10 to \$15**
- h. **Emergency after hours water reconnect fee from \$50 to \$300**
- i. **New call out fee to activate/deactivate residence water shutoff valve**
- j. **Illegal use of water from \$50 to \$250**

Mayor Sharon Bower read the above line items for water structure increases and presented a slideshow with current rates for water services provided, as well as discussed, a breakdown of revenue and expenses for the water system and repairs. Alderman Rupertus left the meeting at 7:05 pm. Mayor Bower announced Nathan, President of the Volunteer Fire Department, to discuss and answer questions about the donation increase. Nathan stated that the rates have been the same since 1988 and with prices increasing, the operating budget is up to \$120,000 a year and the fee is about 1/3 of the budget. Noted that the funds will go towards insurance, maintenance on vehicles, training, supplies, and expenses due to higher call volumes. Fire Chief Baden gave a brief discussion on the medicine required during emergencies that have an expiration date. Mayor Bower stated that citizens may increase, decrease, or elect out of donations.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Sharon Bower stated the search for a city administrator is progressing, 9 applicants to date, with the posting closing the first week of November. Bailey Clement is our new permit coordinator replacing Jessica Sark who has accepted a position with the Corps of Engineers so she can continue adding to her federal retirement account. We will miss Jessica, but Bailey brings great computer skills, a great work ethic and a passion to improve. She and Jessica have already been searching out software programs to streamline the permit and code enforcement process. Bailey will also be taking over managing the registration process and HOT tax payment compliance for our STR's. Tina will continue managing our water but will also be taking over park scheduling, and marina permits. Robert will oversee the pool until next season when it is anticipated that Tina will oversee the summer programs at the pool. Nov 9th we will be honoring our Korean vets so please contact city hall if you know of any Korean Vets in the neighborhood. The trash ordinance will be going into effect Nov 1st. We will have an online form within the water and sewer department page located on our city website. This form will allow you to submit an email with information about out of compliance locations. Remember to remind your neighbors and we are all looking forward to a more trash-free neighborhood. Next phase of the water line project is progressing. The drawings have been reviewed. The bid proposal is being developed with a bid approval date targeted for early December and a start construction date of early January. Targeted to be complete before spring break. The streets impacted are Pelican Way, and the streets between the park and the bird sanctuary with 3 new fire hydrants being installed too. Staff are looking at improving our internal efficiency by migrating to online or cloud hosted platforms, just can't say enough good things about how committed to sustainable, efficient processes our staff is. Website continues to improve. The old website has been shut down and the old ordinances have been moved to the new site. We are still working on Municode, keep hitting a few issues but slowly churning through it. That's it, everyone please enjoy our wonderful fall weather, and the lovely mosquitos that have come with it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

RECONVENE: N/A

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting ended at 7:34 pm because the agenda had been completed in totality.