



# CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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## CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

MAY 4, 2020  
6:00 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Steve Spicer called the meeting to order.*

### PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS

*Alderman Clay Morris led the Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas Flag.*

### ROLL CALL OF ALDERMEN

*The following Councilmember's were present:*

*Mayor Steve Spicer  
MPT Sherwood Green  
Alderman Clay Morris  
Alderman Russell Rupertus  
Alderman Terry Rizzo  
Alderman Marci Kurtz*

*The following staff was present:*

*City Administrator Hutchison  
City Secretary Rushing  
Police Chief Heiman*

### PUBLIC COMMENTS (LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER PERSON)

*Bob Finke, 16634 Jamaica Inn Rd, spoke in favor of the proposed Marina Ordinance.  
Link Robertson, 16610 Jolly Roger, suggests adding speed bumps on Bob Smith; concerned about city's outstanding tickets; spoke about parking/vehicles on the beach and suggests charging for beach access.  
Gilbert Madray, 16638 Bahama Way, spoke in favor of golf carts parking on the beach.*

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. DISCUSS APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:
  - a. REGULAR MEETING VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE – APRIL 20, 2020  
*No discussion. No action.*
2. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING USAGE AND PARKING REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OWNED JAMAICA BEACH REGATTA BASIN FACILITY (ALSO KNOWN AS THE "MARINA"), LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF BASIN DRIVE AND ALL OF BASIN DRIVE; TO PROVIDE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*City Administrator Hutchison explained the intent of the ordinance is to provide resident use only of the Marina; noting the city has received numerous complaints about the Marina being overly crowded.*

*Police Chief Heiman explained the permitting process; he is not concerned about police enforcement, he doesn't think it will be an issue or burden on the patrol officers; he noted the majority of users are non-residents and/or commercial businesses, because the city's boat ramp is the only public boat ramp on the west-end of the Island.*

*Alderman Rupertus spoke in favor of the ordinance; he said the use of the boat ramp has gotten out of control, causing the followings issues: parking, profanity, noise, trash, increase in crime, waterway traffic, extra wear and tear on the bulkheads; he noted the city is not proposing the ordinance to generate revenue, the purpose of the ordinance is for it to be a solution to the multiple problems the city is encountering by having a free public boat ramp.*

*Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman inquired if city staff would be distributing the permits.*

*City Secretary Rushing replied yes, the proposed permit fees would be \$25.00 for an annual permit and \$10.00 for a daily permit.*

*Ginger Jones, 16612 Curlew, inquired if Sea Isle or Waterman's boat launches are private; suggests the city's boat ramp be free for residents and only make the short term rental users pay.*

*Alderman Rupertus replied it would be difficult to know who was private or public without some type of placard system; the permit fees are being proposed to cover the cost for stickers, placards and signage.*

*Alderman Rizzo inquired if the Marina was allowed to be private; she was under the impression that it had to be public, because the city may have received government funds after Ike to make repairs.*

*City Administrator Hutchison replied that he consulted with the City Attorney prior to the ordinance being proposed and the city is allowed to make the Marina private; the city also verified that no hotel occupancy taxes or federal grants have been used to fund prior maintenance or repairs.*

*Link Robertson, 16610 Jolly Roger, inquired about the difficulty, if any, to make the Marina private.*

*Lorraine Jones, 16712 Jolly Roger, inquired why she wasn't provided a copy of the ordinance.*

*City Secretary Rushing replied the city is only required to provide agenda packets to City Councilmembers 72 hours prior to a meeting; all others may submit an open records request to receive a copy of the agenda packet.*

*Chuck Elwell, 16607 Trinidad Way, inquired about designated parking for boat slip owners.*

*Mayor Spicer replied he was unaware of boat slip owners having a designated parking spot; recommended that he contact JBIC.*

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

*City Administrator Hutchison reported on the following: GLO has contacted the city about allowing golf carts to park on the pedestrian only portion of the beach; golf carts are defined as a vehicle therefore, they should not be permitted to park on the pedestrian only beach, unless the golf cart has a handicap placard; the city has two options: no longer allow golf carts to park on the pedestrian only portion of the beach or remove the pedestrian only beach and allow access for all vehicles to park; Bermuda Way waterline replacement is underway, upon completion, the water will be disconnected for around 10 minutes to connect the meters; beach renourishment being reviewed by the GLO legal department; the city will be making an effort to open the city swimming pool this summer; residents that have large items that need to be picked up during the Thursday trash schedule will need to contact AmeriWaste by noon on Wednesday; Annual Hurricane Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> depending on the State's opening; JBPD will be enforcing the Leave No Trace Ordinance, don't leave personal items on the beach;*

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

*Mayor Spicer thanked everyone for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## **ALDERMEN REPORTS**

*MPT Green & Alderman Rizzo – No Reports*

*Alderman Morris reported that he would like to see the same theory used to address the Marina issue to be used to address the beach issue; he noted the overcrowding, parking and trash issues on the beach; he would like the city to revisit the parking on Bob Smith; STR Ordinance Draft being reviewed by City Attorney; suggests posting agenda packets on city website prior to a meeting.*

*Alderman Rupertus reported on the beach issues, paid parking on the beach; the city is doing well financially and it is a positive thing to have encumbrant funds available to use during a disaster; he advise citizens to contact city staff or Council with their issues or concerns instead of posting them on social media; he noted that Council has to be cautious about social media postings to avoid lawsuits; thanked everyone and stay safe. Alderman Kurtz reported the new waterline installation looks great; said she has noticed a lot of negativity on social media as well, there is nothing to hide; city is following the Governor's Orders; new playground equipment being installed in July.*

**POLICE REPORT**

*Police Chief Heiman reported JBPD was busy last weekend and is expecting heavy crowds on the beach every weekend.*

**FIRE REPORT**

*Fire Chief Baden reported the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 fire stats; JBVFD under same orders as Galveston's Fire Department; JBVFD participating in COVID-19 survey; JBVFD utilizing PPE on all calls.*

**ADJOURN**

*Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.*