



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

NOTICE OF MEETING VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

In accordance with Order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, the City Council of the City of Jamaica Beach, Texas, will conduct the meeting scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 6, 2020 in the City Hall Conference Room, located at 16628 San Luis Pass Road, in part by telephone conference in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The meeting agenda and agenda packet are posted online at www.ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us.

The public toll-free dial-in number to participate remotely in the telephonic meeting is (888) 453-4395 and enter the code 284654#.

The public will be permitted to offer public comments telephonically as provided by the agenda and as permitted by the presiding officer during the meeting.

A recording of the telephonic meeting will be made, and will be available to the public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act upon written request.

Public Comments: All individuals (Council, City Staff and/or Public) who attend the open meeting remotely will need to press *6 to unmute their phone and must identify themselves by name prior to speaking.

JULY 6, 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

MPT Sherwood Green 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 Marci Kurtz-Hoffman
Alderman Terry Rizzo (via Telephone)*

*The following staff was present:
City Administrator Hutchison
City Secretary Rushing
Police Chief Heiman*

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

No requests to address Council.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **THE CITY COUNCIL SITTING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 6, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 16628 SAN LUIS PASS RD, JAMAICA BEACH, TX 77554, GIVING ALL INTERESTED PARTIES THE RIGHT TO APPEAR AND BE HEARD ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM: CONSIDER A VARIANCE REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT A BOAT DOCK TO EXTEND 14.5 FEET INTO THE CANAL AT 16711 FLAMINGO WAY.**

Mayor Spicer opened the Public Hearing for comments:

Chris Laurin, the homeowner, he said he applied and received a building permit to install a boat dock, but during the piling installation he noticed the contractor placed the pilings aligned with the neighboring stringers, which extended further into the canal than the 13 feet limit; and for that reason, he is requesting a variance.

City Administrator noted the variance request was posted in the newspaper and the city sent letters to the neighbors within 200 feet of the property and the city did not receive any responses for or against the variance.

Alderman Rupertus said he visited the property, attended the Planning & Zoning Committee meeting and talked to the contractor and believes the installation was an error; he is fine with the P&Z Committee's recommendation for approval of the variance request.

Alderman Morris said he also visited the site and is in-favor of the variance request.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. **DISCUSS APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**
 - a. **WORKSHOP & SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – JUNE 1, 2020**
 - b. **REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 15, 2020**

No discussion.

2. **DISCUSS FY 2020-21 BUDGETS.**

City Administrator Hutchison provided a memo to Council noting the uncertainty of the city finances due to the pandemic; he said the city will be proposing a no-new-tax rate, which means the property tax revenue will be similar to this year's property tax revenue, therefore, the expenditures will have to be similar to have a balanced budget; he asked Council to submit their proposed budgeted items to city staff by the beginning of next week.

3. **DISCUSS PROPOSED AMENDMENT OPTIONS TO THE JAMAICA BEACH VEHICULAR BEACH ACCESS PLAN AS A COMPONENT OF THE CITY'S DUNE PROTECTION AND BEACH ACCESS PLAN SUBMISSION.**

Council and city staff openly discussed item. Alderman Morris said this is a working proposal and he is welcoming all suggestions.

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman spoke in-favor of leaving the chains up on the weekends.

Mayor Spicer suggests moving the bollards down, because there is not enough parking.

Police Chief Heiman recommends a pedestrian only beach for the 55 days as authorized by the GLO, but suggests expanding the size of the pedestrian beach by 200 yards then allow for a turn around area.

MPT Green asked for clarification of the Police Chief's proposal noting his concerns about kids running in front of vehicles.

Police Chief Heiman clarified by stating vehicles will be parked near the dunes and beachgoer's will have to setup their picnics, pop-ups, etc. near the waterline.

4. DISCUSS CLEANING THE DIVERSIONARY DITCH.

City Administrator noted the city contracted to have all vegetation and sediment removed from the southern half of the diversionary ditch from Blackbeard to Henry Morgan in 2019; he suggests having the ditch cleaned again by mechanical means to prevent the recurrence of large sediment deposits and excessive growth with the exception of the sporadic Palm Trees growing on both sides of the ditch from Blackbeard to Francis Drake.

5. DISCUSS APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH AND GALVESTON COUNTY FOR TRANSFER OF CARES ACT FUNDING FOR COUNTYWIDE COVID-19 TESTING.

City Administrator Hutchison explained the Interlocal Agreement; he noted Galveston County allocated a majority of their CARES Act Funds to increase COVID testing for the public; he said Galveston County is requesting to enter into a fund transfer agreement with all of its 13 municipalities to allocate \$10 per capita of their CARES Act funds to help pay for current and future countywide COVID-19 testing; the city's portion would be \$10,800.

6. DISCUSS A VARIANCE REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT A BOAT DOCK TO EXTEND 14.5 FEET INTO THE CANAL AT 16711 FLAMINGO WAY. (THIS AGENDA ITEM WILL HAVE THE COUNCIL ACTING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS.)

This item was discussed during the Public Hearing. Alderman Morris said the oversite is hardly noticeable. Alderman Rupertus noted that he informed the contractor of the city's setbacks for future construction projects.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator Hutchison reported on the following: the city finalized the contracts with the GLO for the CEPRA grants; continuing to work with the City Engineer for the street projects; City of Galveston applied for an \$800K grant for Galveston Island Drainage Study; staff will continue to work on the FY 2020-21 Budgets; he is arranging for COVID testing in Jamaica Beach, please keep an eye on the city's website for more details.

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

ALDERMEN REPORTS

MPT Green, Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman, Rupertus & Rizzo – No Reports

Alderman Morris looking forward to concluding the Beach Access Plan; visited with the City Administrator about revisiting the Marina.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Heiman reported the JBPD stats for the 4th of July weekend; JBPD Officer that tested positive has recovered and will be returning to duty.

FIRE REPORT – Absent, No Report

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.