



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 5, 2019
6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Spicer called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL OF ALDERMEN

The following Councilmember's were present:

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

The following Councilmember was absent:

Alderman Russell Rupertus

The following staff was present:

*City Administrator Hutchison
City Secretary Rushing
Police Sgt. Aucoin*

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

No requests to address Council.

PRESENTATION:

1. CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018.

Katherine Overbeck Maxwell, CPA, PLLC and Accountant Alpha Jallow attended the meeting to present the City of Jamaica Beach Financial Audit for year ending September 30, 2018 to Council. Mr. Jallow provided a brief overview of the audit; he commended the City Secretary for promptly responding to their inquiries and for supplying the supporting documents necessary to conduct the audit; he also noted a few deficiencies that could be easily rectified if certain modules in QuickBooks were utilized; he said overall the city is doing very well.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. DISCUSS FY 2018/2019 BUDGETS.

A copy of the July 2019 Fund Financials were provided to Council to review. Alderman Kurtz inquired about the Election expense overage. City Secretary Rushing replied the city conducts a county-wide election by contracting its election services with the County of Galveston Election Division; the election services cost is shared amongst the entities conducting an election; there were only a few entities that conducted an election in May, which resulted in the city's cost share being higher than budgeted. No further discussion.

2. DISCUSS FY 2019/2020 PROPOSED BUDGETS.

City Administrator Hutchison provided an overview of the FY 2019/2020 proposed budgets. The following items were noted as being included in the proposed budgets: a full-time Laborer position; video equipment for Council Chambers; 3% salary increase for city employees and 2% salary increase for Department Heads; 10% employee retirement contribution; the employee incentive checks in December; utility rate increase to fund waterline replacement project; and funding \$5,000 towards CEPRA dredging.

Jacob Grow, 16631 John Silver, asked for clarification regarding the proposed water rate increase.

Ginger Jones, 16612 Curlew, inquired about the water rate increase and utilizing the TV's in the Council Chamber.

3. DISCUSS CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020.

City Secretary Rushing clarified the proposed timeline for adopting the budget and tax rate; she noted the proposed budget must be filed with the City Secretary 30 days prior to adopting the budget; the proposed date to conduct the Public Hearing is September 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

4. DISCUSS PROPOSING THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE OF \$0.193253 PER \$100 OF PROPERTY VALUE FOR THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH.

City Secretary Rushing noted the effective tax rate being proposed is a \$0.004 decrease from the preceding year's effective tax rate. No further discussion.

5. DISCUSS RESCINDING THE APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARY BY \$600 A MONTH IN LIEU OF CITY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.

Mayor Spicer acknowledged that Council rushed approval of the above item; it is against the city's group plan and policy to pay an incentive in lieu of insurance coverage; the Mayor said he spoke to the City Administrator about rescinding the approval and he agreed.

6. DISCUSS ACCEPTING GAY FUNDLING'S RESIGNATION FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND APPOINTING A NEW MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY.

Mayor Spicer recognized Gay Fundling for her long time service on the Planning and Zoning Commission. City Secretary Rushing noted the city has received 2 - Letters of Interest to date; the deadline to apply is August 14, 2019.

7. DISCUSS AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO CREATE A SHORT TERM RENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND APPOINT ITS MEMBERS.

Mayor Spicer explained the purpose of creating a Short Term Rental Advisory Committee. City Administrator Hutchison suggests the committee consist of 6 members; anyone interested in becoming a member may contact him.

8. DISCUSS AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH TO ENTER INTO DUNE EASEMENT AND DEDICATED BEACH EASEMENT AGREEMENT(S) WITH THE COUNTY OF GALVESTON FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN THE DUNE RESTORATION PROJECT ON TRACT(S) OWNED BY GALVESTON COUNTY.

City Administrator Hutchison provided a brief explanation of the dune easement agreements; he noted there are 11 parcels owned by the County.

9. DISCUSS APPROVING CITY STAFF TO ADVERTISE RFQ 2019-3: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES.

City Administrator Hutchison explained the Request for Qualifications (RFQ); he noted the engineering services would be for a post-storm event.

10. DISCUSS APPROVING CITY STAFF TO ADVERTISE RFQ 2019-4: OPERATION & MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.

City Administrator Hutchison noted the city is seeking approval to advertise for water and wastewater services after receiving notice that the city's current contractor plans to retire soon.

11. DISCUSS APPROVING CITY STAFF TO ADVERTISE BID 2019-5: JAMAICA BEACH 2019 WATERLINE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Mayor Spicer invited John Mercer, the Engineer for the project, to the podium to explain the waterline improvement project being proposed.

Jacob Grow, 16631 John Silver, inquired about the estimated start date for the project.

Link Robertson, 16610 Jolly Roger, inquired if the city had a map of the waterlines.

12. DISCUSS APPROVING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE 76-11 PROHIBITING CAMPING ON BEACHES BETWEEN 12:00 MIDNIGHT AND 5:00 A.M., AS AMENDED, TO ALLOW FOR REGULATIONS RELATED TO MAINTAINING A CLEAN BEACH AND PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS CONDUCT BY BEACH USERS; 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 Secretary Rushing asked Council to provide guidance regarding the city amending and/or drafting an Ordinance pertaining to item being left on the beach unattended; she was seeking Council's directive to amend the City of Jamaica Beach's Camping Ordinance or do they want her to draft a new ordinance mirroring the City of Galveston's "Leave No Trace" Ordinance.

Janet Shawgo, 16635 John Davis, inquired if people are allowed to sleep in their vehicles overnight.

City Secretary Rushing replied the city's current Camping Ordinance (76-11) prohibits overnight camping in vehicles between Midnight to 5:00 a.m.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator Hutchison reported he contacted the County to request them to fast-track the reconstruction and drainage of the beach access on Buccaneer; update on the Seaweed Removal Permit.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Spicer reported TxDOT is currently surveying FM 3005 to raise it.

ALDERMEN REPORTS

MPT Green – No Report

Alderman Kurtz reported this Fall she will be looking into replacing some of the City Park equipment.

Alderman Rizzo provided a summary report from the JBIC Annual Meeting.

Alderman Morris reported he is consulting with the Police Chief about installing city cameras; implementing a "One Call" system; parking enforcement and noise complaints; reactivating Citizens on Patrol; he has also visited with the City Administrator about street signs; he is still trying to contact someone at the USPS about delivery options for large packages; he also reported that he plans to follow-up on the height of the powerlines, he thinks they are low.

POLICE REPORT – Absent, No Report

FIRE REPORT – Absent, No Report

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.