

CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL WORKSHOP & REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

August 17, 2020
6 P. M.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Spicer called the meeting to order.

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U. S. AND TEXAS FLAGS Mayor Steve Spicer led the pledges.

ROLL CALL OF ALDERMAN The following council members were present: Mayor Steve Spicer, MPT Sherwood Green, Alderman Clay Morris Alderman Russell Rupertus, Alderman Marci Kurtz Hoffman, Alderman Terry Rizzo

PUBLIC COMMENTS (limited to three minutes per person)

Ty Buthod, 10 Green Heron Circle I would like to speak about the Beach Vehicular Beach Plan. I think the City Administrator did a very good job in the August 3rd memo summarizing the June meeting. The City administrator indicated that the majority of residents spoke in favor of keeping the Pedestrian Only beach, and I had the same impression. I am discouraged to see this 3rd Option now being prepared and I encourage the city council not to approve this third option. I know we are trying to satisfy a lot of different interests here, but I think the third Option has even less pedestrian only beach and is the exact opposite of what the majority of residents spoke about. It is particularly unattractive for Boardwalk you are taking this beach as it now is and making it even worse by setting up an area where we can't have tents or spend any quality time in that area because of all the traffic in the turnaround area. I know this is an effort to try and please a lot of interests, but not what the majority of residents want. I would encourage the city council not to vote on this new Option #3 and to stick with what the majority of the residents wanted in June and figure out a way to maximize the pedestrian beach, not reduce it. To that end, I think we can talk some sense into GLO and I would love to have the opportunity to persuade them to do so. I appreciate the opportunity to speak and I appreciate the city council's continued dedication to the City of Jamaica Beach.

Mayor Spicer Any other public comments?

Andrea Spiering, 16617 Jamaica Beach Rd., a front row beach homeowner. The letter from Chief Heiman in the packet seems to be based on the passage of Option 3. He discusses bollards, signage, single row parking, etc., etc. My assumption was that this had not yet been voted on, yet his letter assumes it has passed. Option 1 is to remove the Pedestrian Only Beach. No one wants this option. I don't even know why this is one of the choices. Again, we have golf carts and would not be drivers who would park there. When this mess started...why can't we go back to where we started a year ago. Option 2 This option keeps the beach as is for 55 days. This seems to be the best option we have been presented. The only option I could support would be Option 2 but again I am concerned that we are putting up signage and bollards. It doesn't address whether there will be single row parking along the dunes. Will there be single road parking, turn around area, trash cans? Those are only discussed in Option 3. Option 3 turns our beautiful beach into a parking lot. You say there will be numbered parking so even though the parking restrictions will only be enforced for 55 days, the effects would be present to us for the entire 365 days. The mention in the chief's letter about closing the beaches and trying to avoid that, it would

still happen because so cars would be turned away so this does not address the police chief's concern about having to close the beach. I am a front row beach homeowner. When I purchased my house, one and a half years ago, the bollards were on the other side of my house and it was pedestrian only. We all agree that something must be done in front of my house to protect our beaches and our community. You want to improve traffic flow. The concern is that we have to remember we are a beach community, not a parking lot community, We don't need to come to the beach on non-tourists 310 days and see signs and trash cans marring our sunrises and sunsets. I do appreciate all the work put into the proposals. I would ask that you try to minimize changes visually and you try to improve traffic flow. We are a beach, not a road. The only option of the 3 that I can even remotely support would be Option 2. I still have concerns that we are putting up signs, bollards, trash cans for a 55 day problem. One of the comments my husband made---- Mayor Spicer interjected: Let's cut it short your 3 minutes are almost up (contd.) people will park in the dune even with the signage. Thank you very much for listening to me. I appreciate your patience.

Mayor Spicer Thank you. Anybody else? If not, we will move on to Item #1, Sean?

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a. DISCUSS FY 2019/2020 BUDGETS.
- b. DISCUSS FY 2020/2021 PROPOSED BUDGETS.

City Admin. Hutchison The current budget projections are coming in pretty much as we expected. I am not seeing too many surprises.

Mayor Spicer Anyone have any questions about our current budget? If not, we will move on to 20-21 Sean?

City Admin. Hutchison I included a letter briefly summarizing the proposed budgets, \$4,145 more. The proposed budget has reduced taxes of \$21.21 on a home valued at \$300K, a 3% COLA for hourly staff---It provides for continuation of the replacement of water lines as well as other capital improvement projects. Your projects are summarized in the attached Capital Investment Plan. With that, if you have any specific questions, we are not at this time expecting any rate increases in utilities or taxes.

City Secretary Rushing I would like for the council to provide justification for the 3% hourly wage increases. I just wanted to know if that was being provided as a COLA or as a (pause-no not merit) job classification raise.

Mayor Spicer I believe when it was brought up it was a COLA.

City Secretary Rushing I would just like to make note that that the note you (Sean) sent out; there was a 2% decrease in the cost of living in our area and a 4% decrease in the state of Texas. You are saying COLA but I am not understanding why it was being provided only to hourly employees instead of like we have done in the past years when we gave it across the board. The salaried employees get a lesser percent than the hourly employees, so it doesn't affect just one group of people, it affects everyone if you state it as a COLA.

Alderman Rupertus Perhaps we should have done it as a merit but since we skipped evaluations at the beginning of the year, ahhh, so we didn't have anything to base it on. We can label it however. It could go as merit. I understand at concern. I am just glad y'all did such a wonderful job getting that into the budget.

City Secretary Rushing I was just thinking of the fair of Equal Opportunity Employment. If you are going to give a merit raise to some employees, how might other employees feel who probably provided just as much service annually throughout the year to the City of Jamaica Beach. That is why I just wanted to understand that I am understanding it properly from the city council.

Alderman Rizzo When we discussed it initially, we weren't aware of the statistics that Sean presented to us that the cost of living had decreased, so that is how we out the COLA tag on it.

Ahhh merit; we have been doing 5% across the board forever and that is why we formed a committee a few years ago trying to tag merit, trying to measure merit. The workload has been so much more for the hourly wage folks-the office up here. I am sure the workload is more for Lupe and Sean too , but when you are salaried, you are expected to do more than the hourly folks, in my experience.

Mayor Spicer Anyone have anything else?

Alderman Rupertus After Lupe bring it up, I would like to take the COLA tag off of it.

Alderman Rizzo I Agree

Alderman Morris I agree with Rupertus and Rizzo; we need to take the COLA label off

Chief Heiman the city has suffered like every other city in the nation with Covid 19 and we have lost revenue that we normally would have had. I think if the department heads, by not being considered for any increase is more that substantial this year. If the council decides to consider these raises, I request not to be considered in that bunch; we need to give back to the city that has given too us for so many years. The consideration is well above and beyond what anyone is expecting this year.

Mayor Spicer Anyone else?

Alderman Rizzo motioned to approve Both budgets.

Alderman Rupertus seconded

Mayor Spicer All in favor? Motion carries.

2. CONSIDER FOR ACTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH AND THE GALVESTON COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT FOR 2020-2021 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND ABATEMENT SERVICES.

Alderman Rupertus motioned to approve as stated.

Alderman Morris seconded.

Mayor Spicer All in favor? Motion carries.

3. CONSIDER FOR ACTION APPROVING A CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH AND MUNICODE FOR REDODIFICATION, SUPPLEMENTATION AND ONLINE CODE HOSTING SERVICES, DESIGNATING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AS THE CONTRACTING OFFICER.

Mayor Spicer Any discussion?

Alderman Morris I would like more discussion on that. I know we haven't paid yet. We think it is a wonderful idea and we need to get it done but I don't want to spend any extra dollars. I understand. I think \$11K to get a word search done and then on top of that pay for the hosting..

Alderman Rizzo When I was on JBIC, trying to find things was virtually impossible. 40 or 50 years of codes/ordinances that need to be codified. It is too big a task for someone to do in their spare time. That is just my opinion. When I was studying what Sean provided for us, however, I wasn't clear if some of the options at the end were included in the \$11K?

City Admin. Hutchison A portion of the 411,900 is for putting it on the website for the first six months included; the other services are not included.

Alderman Rizzo But you can add other things down the road if you wanted to?

City Admin. Hutchison Yes, there are any number of components you can add to this. That is one of the reasons we chose this company because of what we can add, ie. Ability to store agenda, videos of city council meetings.

Alderman Morris I Understand. I think \$11K to get a word search done and then on top of that pay for all the hosting ...

City Admin. Hutchison Annually it is either \$395 or \$495

Alderman Morris That is in line for most

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman For clarification for me there is one other company that does this type of thing?

City Admin. Hutchison There is one other company. It is \$7K but it doesn't offer all the components that this company provides.

Mayor Spicer Anybody else? Thank you. From what I am hearing, let's do it by raising your hand.

City Secretary Rushing I will say your name and you can say In favor or Against

Alderman Green In Favor

Alderman Morris Against

Alderman Rupertus In Favor

Alderman Rizzo In Favor

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman In Favor

#4 CONSIDER FOR ACTION APPROVING A CHANGE ORDER REQUEST TO THE 2019 WATER LINE IMPROVEMENT PROJ TO DEWATER THE AREA AND INSTALL THE WATER LINES TO THE RECOMMENDED DEPTH, THE HANGE ORDER REQUEST WILL INCREASE THE COST BY APPROXIMATELY \$25,358, THE CONTRACT PRICE WITH THE NEW CHANGE ORODER SHALL NOT EXCEED \$264,287.

Mayor Spicer Any discussion?

Alderman Rizzo It is just very necessary because of all the problems we are having because the water table is so low.

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman Makes motion to approve as stated.

Alderman Rupertus Seconded

#5 CONSIDER FOR ACTION APPROVING A LOCATION FOR THE TURTLES ABOUT TOWN SCULPTURE.

Alderman Rizzo Am I to understand that JBIC is also doing a Turtle?

City Admin. Hutchison It is being considered as was in the memo. The location is to be determined but they are considering the esplanade

Alderman Rizzo It seems like, in consideration of expenses, this might have been a could split expense endeavor, to have one turtle instead of two. That was just a thought I had because they are not cheap.

Mayor Spicer Anybody else have anything?

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman Motioned to approve as stated.

Alderman Morris Seconded

#6 CONSIDER FOR ACTION APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR THE BEACH ACCESS VEHICULAR CONTROL PLAN.

Alderman Morris I make a Motion but I think I want more discussion

Mayor Spicer Which Option; you have to make an motion and get a second first, then we can open for discussion

Alderman Morris It doesn't specify a plan

Mayor Spicer You still have to pick a plan since we have three options

Alderman Morris I make a motion that we accept Option #3

Mayor Spicer I will open up the discussion. I believe Option 3 is the best of all. It gives a private beach far enough down on the beach where the area to park doesn't clutter up the car traffic area. If we leave it like it is, the cars will be a parking lot for sure, because everyone will be trying to walk to the pedestrian beach. It will cut down the amount of people on the beach and makes it easier to control the crowd.

From the audience Is this a workshop where we can...

Mayor Spicer No m'am; we workshopped last week.

Alderman Morris I would like to see more discussion before we have a vote on it.

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman I need more time before approving something since we are going into the off season. I don't know how the police chief would feel about doing a dry run this weekend? We could stake it out and kind of see how it works. We could get a better feel for it.

Mayor Spicer I am definitely not one to keep something going for two years. We have been doing this for almost two years; it is time to make a decision. I don't have a vote but my opinion is 18 months, almost two years, is long enough to discuss this.

City Secretary Rushing Right now, you are proposing an Option and that way we can put that Option in the Beach Access Vehicular Control Plan as an ordinance and it will get sent to gLO for final approval before we can actually implement the plan.

Alderman Rizzo I think what Clay and Marci are both saying is that we may not want to make a proposal at this time. I understand what Steve is saying but we don't want to be in a rush. Maybe we have enough parking space to enlarge the pedestrian area, since this seems to be one of the issues with the public.

Mayor Spicer We are not enlarging the pedestrian beach. Right now it is split 50-50 and we are not using it as a pedestrian only beach because we are letting everyone go down there waiting on a proposal.

Alderman Rizzo I am suggesting a #4, If it is okay with the GLO, if we would still have enough parking spaces if we make the pedestrian area a little bit larger,. Clay might be able to answer that.

Alderman Morris

That might be a possibility but that is why I am proposing that we need to look at it one more time and have a discussion among us after we visit with members of the community.

Alderman Green The police chief has worked on this quite extensively.

Mayor Spicer ...for almost two years. It is time to do something.

Alderman Morris ...and me too

Alderman Green ...and you too, that's fine. I'm no trying...anyway, it seems like he found out that's the best way to do it and less cars with the least amount of trash and running back and forth.

Alderman Morris The Chief and I speak on this almost on a weekly basis and emails on this. If we have a better way to do it, we want to see if we can do it. What is another month or at least 'til September when we start getting the rush again. We don't need to rush into anything.

Mayor Spicer I don't think two years is rushing into anything.

Alderman Morris Well, I have only been involved for two months.

Mayor Spicer Well, I'm sorry, but it has been two years.

Alderman Morris Now I am in control of it.

Alderman Green You are not in control of it.

Mayor Spicer You are in control of one vote.

Alderman Morris That is one vote and my one vote is saying what I am saying.

Mayor Spicer Is there any more discussion? We will do a roll call vote.

Alderman Rupertus First of all, I just want to thank everybody who has worked so hard and diligently on this, especially the Police Chief and Alderman Morris. There is no right answer on this. We have approached this from every direction and we can't really believe Option 3 may not be the perfect Option for us, but I don't want to get caught behind the 8 ball because we have to get this under control before next season comes up.

Mayor Spicer Any more discussion? If not, can we have a roll call vote?

Alderman Green In Favor Alderman Morris Against

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman Against Alderman Rizzo Against

Alderman Rupertus In Favor Mayor Spicer That is 3-2. Motion Fails.

#7 CONSIDER FOR ACTION CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 AT 6:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020, AT CITY HALL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 16628 SAN LUIS PASS ROAD, JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS. ANY PERSON MAY ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Spicer Any discussion? No discussion. Let's go to the City Administrator's Report
City Admin. Hutchison Meeting with the GLO on the construction application for the Buccaneer and Beachcomber Reconstruction and the Blackbeard overlay property. Submitting info today to the GLO and we will probably have some back and forths with GLO as they review those particular projects before it is finalized and then the engineering will be done with the project in late September or October. From the Kick off meeting last week ,a work plan with a 16 month time frame was established for the Beachfront Nourishment Plan. I think that is an impressive time frame, It took 22 months to get the Seaweed Removal Permit. Galveston county is partnering with UTMB to offer free Covid testing for Galveston County at 3 locations: League City, Galveston, and Texas City. You need a Government issued identification and must make an appointment. The number is 832-632-6731

Mayor Spicer No Report

Alderman Green, Rupertus, Rizzo and Kurtz-Hoffman and Chief Heiman had No Reports

Alderman Morris I love the constructive discussions we are having. I see a lot of positive change coming, in the near future, for Jamaica Beach. I look forward to working with everyone. I would like to see about opening these meetings back up to the public.

Alderman Rupertus makes a motion to adjourn.

Alderman Morris seconded.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully transcribed and submitted by Alderman rizzo