



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2, 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 Russell Rupertus 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-Hoffman*

The following staff was present:

*City Administrator Hutchison
Interim City Secretary Gonzales
Police Chief Heiman*

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

Ginger Jones, 16612 Curlew, believes the city should do some more research and that the city waits until the State makes their decision before amending the golf cart ordinance.

Lorraine Jones, 16712 Jolly Roger, thanked everyone for putting the packets with the agendas online. Mrs. Jones asked if the city could keep the packets with the minutes when they are posted, she also asked that votes by the council members be included.

Michael Tucker, Lot 18 section 26, asked for approval on his variance request.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. THE CITY COUNCIL SITTING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 2, 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 15'10" FROM THE LOT LINE INTO THE CANAL ON PARCEL NUMBER 125682 (VACANT LOT IN CENTER OF CUL DE SAC ON FLOUNDER WAY).

City Administrator Hutchison stated that a notice was published on October 20, 2020 and letters were sent out to all property owners within 200 feet of parcel number 125682. He explained the Jamaica Beach special requirements on boat docks. City Administrator Hutchison noted that this boat dock will not extend more than 13 feet into the canal but it will extend more than 13 feet from the rear lot line. There is two plus feet of bulkhead into the buildable area. The neighbors' are concerned this will cause issues since there is already a lot boat traffic in the area.

Mayor Spicer added this property is on a main canal. He explained how bulkheads were built in the past and he doesn't believe the city has ever denied a variance for a boat dock on a main canal. Mayor Spicer asked if any council members if they had any comments.

Alderman Morris stated he understood why this needed to be done.

Alderman Rupertus said he reviewed the property and the plans and he feels comfortable making a decision.

Mayor Pro-Tem Green stated that the boat dock was not going any further than the neighbors.

Alderman Rizzo said she would go with the Planning and Zoning's recommendations.

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman had no comments.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. DISCUSS APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

a. WORKSHOP & SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

b. WORKSHOP & SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – OCTOBER 5, 2020

c. WORKSHOP & SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 19, 2020

Alderman Rizzo commented when it is reported that a motion was carried it means it was unanimous. No action.

2. DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE AMENDED FLOOD HAZARD REGULATIONS ENTITLED FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE IN THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Administrator Hutchison explained that the City of Jamaica Beach is in the Community Rating System, a voluntary program that provides flood insurance at a discounted rate. The city is currently a Class 8 rating which gives the city a 10% reduction on flood insurance. In order to maintain this rating going into 2021 the city must introduce a freeboard requirement of at least 1 foot.

Alderman Green questioned what freeboard is.

City Administrator Hutchison explained that freeboard is the elevation of a buildings lowest floor to a height above the minimum base flood elevation.

Alderman Green asked if this was something the entire city had to do.

Mayor Spicer explained that it would be for new construction and additions only.

Alderman Rizzo was worried about there being a 1 foot gap.

Alderman Rupertus explained there would not be a gap, the home would just have to be raised a foot.

Mayor Spicer asked if anyone in the audience had any comments.

Ginger Jones, 16612 Curlew asked if they just had to raise the house 1 foot.

Mayor Spicer said yes.

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman asked if they wanted to city ordinance to be stricter to get the discount.

Alderman Rizzo asked if it will stay that way when required elevations rise.

3. DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH, TEXAS, AMENDING THE ADOPTED GOLF CART AND OTHER SLOW MOVING VEHICLE REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSENGER VEHICLES AS STATED IN THE STATE OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE; PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

REQUIREMENTS DEEMED NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Administrator Hutchison was notified in October 2020 by the Galveston County Tax Office that golf carts will need a license plate.

Alderman Morris noted that Representative Middleton said there are still some issues to work out, he asked if Chief Heiman could come up and answer some questions.

Chief Heiman explained it will be a onetime fee for the license plate.

Mayor Spice asked if people will now be able to drive golf carts/UTVs on FM 3005.

Chief Heiman stated they would still only be allowed to cross at the light.

Alderman Rupertus asked Chief Heiman what his recommendation was and he stated it was the law and something we must do if we want to continue to allow golf carts/UTVs.

Ginger Jones, 16612 Curlew, commented that if we lower the speed limit to 25 miles per hour, all we would need are the slow moving vehicle triangles.

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman asked if there were any benefits to the city and Chief Heiman said no.

- 4. DISCUSS A VARIANCE REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT A BOAT DOCK TO EXTEND 15'10" FROM THE LOT LINE INTO THE CANAL ON PARCEL NUMBER 125682 (VACANT LOT IN CENTER OF CUL DE SAC ON FLOUNDER WAY). (THIS AGENDA ITEM WILL HAVE THE COUNCIL ACTING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS.)**

Alderman Rupertus commented that if we deny this; there will be no way to get a boat in the slip.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- 1. THE CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, CHAPTER 551, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 551.074 – TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL – EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES OR DISCIPLINE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR.**

Mayor Spicer read above caption before Council convened in Executive Session at 6:26 p.m.

- 2. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO CONSIDER ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Council reconvened in Open Session at 6:47 p.m.

Alderman Morris motioned the City of Jamaica Beach will accept the resignation of the City Administrator, Sean Hutchison, effective December 31, 2020 and appoint Chief Brad Heiman as the interim City Administrator with a performance review after six months. Second by Alderman Rupertus.

In-Favor: Alderman Morris, Alderman Rupertus, Mayor Pro-Tem Green, Alderman Rizzo.

Opposed: Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator Hutchison asked council to review the HR manual. The installation of the playground has been delayed until November 9, 2020. The base for the turtle has been installed at city hall. Turtles are being collected now for clear coating and will be installed starting at the end of December. Meeting with the County Engineers to review the completed plans for the street improvements. Plans and reports going well for the Beach Nourishment Program, at the point which the permitting process will begin. The Ike Dike plans are on the city's website and Facebook page. This weekend will still be busy even though the Lone Star Biker Rally was canceled, most hotels are booked. Planning and Zoning will meet about a re-plat this month. Planning and Zoning will need interested parties to apply because Mr. Montgomery is moving.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report

ALDERMEN REPORTS

Alderman Kurtz-Hoffman thanked everyone that helped out with Halloween. She said there was a good turnout.

Alderman Morris thanked Nola for stepping in and Sean for his services.

Mayor Pro-Tem Green, Alderman Rupertus and Alderman Rizzo had no report.

POLICE REPORT

No report

FIRE REPORT

No report

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.