



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 5, 2013
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 Eddie Burke led the Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas Flags.

ROLL CALL OF ALDERMEN

The following Councilmember's were present:

*Mayor Steve Spicer
MPT Eddie Burke
Alderman Brad South
Alderman Gene Montgomery*

The following staff was present:

*City Administrator Brick
City Secretary Rushing
Acting Police Chief Sedgwick*

The following Councilmembers were absent:

*Alderman Sandy Denby
Alderman Mary Morse*

PRESENTATION:

1. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO GENE ACKERMAN.

Mayor Spicer & Acting Police Chief Sedgwick presented a plaque to Gene Ackerman recognizing him for his time and effort in keeping Jamaica Beach beautiful.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSS VARIANCE FOR FENCE AT 16700 KINGSTON WAY.

City Administrator Brick explained the variance request to build a fence outside of his property line; he said the request was brought to Planning and Zoning and they denied the variance. Jay Pennison, 16700 Kingston Way, presented photos to Council and made changes to his original request. City Administrator Brick said the changed request would need to go back to Planning and Zoning to review.

2. DISCUSS VARIANCE FOR POOL AT 16639 JAMAICA COVE.

City Administrator Brick explained the variance request to build a pool 5 ft. into the setback lines; the setback requirement is 10 ft.; he said the request was brought to Planning and Zoning and they approved the variance.

3. DISCUSS APPROVING ROCKPORT RESORTS BID OF \$30,000 TO INSTALL AUTOMATED WATER METERS.

City Administrator Brick said Council has already approved the purchase of Neptune meters, but not the installation; he said he received one bid to install the meters only; he asked Council to advise if they want to accept the one bid or direct him to seek more.

Stephen Hubbell, 16530 Mansvelt, suggest the city seek more bids.

4. DISCUSS CONTRACTING OR HIRING FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES FOR THE WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT.

City Administrator Brick asked Council to advise how they would like our water services to be taken care of; he mentioned the city always contracting for those services, but recently accepted the resignation of the water operator contractor; he asked Council to advise if they want to continue contracting or hire full-time employees.

MPT Burke asked city staff to advise how they would advertise if Council were to decide to hire full-time employees.

City Secretary Rushing replied an ad could be placed on TML's website and in the local newspaper.

Alderman Montgomery noted if the city were to hire full-time employees they could do other things around city hall and the city, which could be beneficial.

City Secretary Rushing also mentioned the full-time employees could install the automatic meters.

5. DISCUSS POLICE CHIEF RECOMMENDATION BY COMMITTEE.

City Administrator Brick list the names of the Police Chief Committee: Mayor Spicer, Alderman Montgomery, citizens Rick Price & Bunny Zapalac and John Brick; he said there were 4 candidates: Roger Free, Dale Hubert, Richard Sedgwick & Mike Todaro; the committee recommended Richard Sedgwick to be the new Police Chief.

Mayor Spicer opened the discussion:

Dale Hubert, 16525 Jamaica Cove, said Mr. Brick mentioned Bunny Zapalac as a committee member, but she was not present during his interview.

Stephen Hubbell, 16530 Mansvelt, said he doesn't think Richard Sedgwick is qualified, also thinks the citizens should have input.

Bunny Zapalac, 16603 Cormorant, she said the committee did the interviews and went through all the recommendations; she said Richard Sedgwick was highly recommended by a lot of the citizens in the community; she thinks he has done a good job as Acting Chief.

Trisha Sloan, 16531 Jamaica Cove, agreed with Mr. Hubbell; she also thinks the citizens should have input.

Stephen Hubbell, 16530 Mansvelt, suggest the committee to a better background check on Mr. Sedgwick.

Debra Plaisance, 16603 Jamaica Cove, she also believes the citizens should have input.

Mark Sloan, 16531 Jamaica Cove, suggest the committee reconsider their recommendation, spoke in favor of Dale Hubert.

Stephen Hubbell, 16530 Mansvelt, asked if a thorough investigation was done on all applicants; asked if Public Records Request were done.

Joe Deforke, 16526 Jamaica Cove, asked what the criteria were to determining the Police Chief.

Stephen Hubbell, 16530 Mansvelt, questioned why the committee didn't seek assistance from other agencies in determining the Police Chief like it has done in the past.

Mike Todaro, 4412 Bob Smith, confirmed a background check was done on Mr. Sedgwick when he was hired by Chief Andy McLane just like it was done on him when he was hired; he doesn't understand why Mr. Sedgwick's background check is being questioned.

Trisha Sloan, 16531 Jamaica Cove, commented as an RN and caring for the public a background check is done each time she switches jobs; a lot can happen between jobs.

Stephen Hubbell, 16530 Mansvelt, said a quick background check was done on Mr. Todaro when he was hired since the department was short staffed; he doesn't feel Mr. Sedgwick should be hired since he was best friends with Andy McLane; he believes Mr. Sedgwick being recommended was a political decision.

Bunny Zapalac, 16603 Cormorant, said things have been running smoothly the past year since Mr. Sedgwick has been the Acting Chief.

Trisha Sloan, 16531 Jamaica Cove, said there is a difference between calling references and doing a background check.

Dale Hubert, 16531 Jamaica Cove, said he did not provide contact or references on his resume.

6. DISCUSS ADOPTING THE 2011 NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE.

City Administrator Brick recommended to Council to adopt the 2011 National Electric Code.

CITIZEN INPUT

(REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL MUST BE MADE TO CITY STAFF BY 5:45 P.M. ON AUGUST 5, 2013.)

No requests to address Council.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

ALDERMEN REPORTS

MPT Burke & Alderman South – No Reports

Alderman Montgomery said the Pool Committee is in the process of meeting to discuss new pool plans.

POLICE REPORT – No Report

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.