



CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**April 11, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Mayor Pro Tem Gil Madray called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

The following Council Members were present:

*Mayor Sharon Bower
Mayor Pro Tem Gil Madray
Alderman Sherwood Green
Alderswoman Lorraine Jones
Alderman Russell Rupertus
Alderman David Welch*

The following Council Members were absent: None

The following staff were present:

*City Administrator – Kendal Francis
Police Chief – Raymond Garivey
Director of Development – Robert Quintero
Finance Clerk - Ester Abrego*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS

1) INVOCATION: PASTOR LERNETTE PATTERSON, REEDY CHAPEL AME CHURCH

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Larry Benthall 16630 Nassau way – “The misguided porta potty pilot project is a fine example of city officials, elected and not, thinking they know what is best for the community, and later finding out the community disagrees. The city officials and candidates should issue more detailed writings that elaborate on their vision for Jamaica Beach, their guiding principles regarding determining consensus and making decisions, and philosophy on how to manage the beach. Components of the vision should include how you want the community to evolve in terms of ownership, such as oriented towards retirees, or families, or rentals. Do you favor a peaceful, quiet community or a bustling one with activity? How do you envision residents and STR owners and renters co-existing as peacefully as practical? Do you want to increase the number of businesses and thus try to attract more visitors? How should hotel occupancy taxes be spent in new ways? Components of the beach management philosophy should include how much, if at all, the beach at JB should be attractive for and marketed to visitors. Do you favor passive discouragement, such as a beach fee, signage for occasionally unhealthy fecal levels, strict parking rules, rattlesnakes in dunes, promoting other beaches’ amenities, publishing effective enforcement of rules, and encouraging short stays at the beach? We don’t allow camping overnight; so, why allow camping during the day? Thank you.

Andrea Spuering 16617 Jamaica Beach - How did we go from getting bids to putting potties in the beach? As a beach front owner, this is a terrible idea.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

1. Narcan Distribution - Les McColgin, Gulf Coast Outreach Services presented about the free Narcan distribution program that he runs and thanking the city for partnering with him.
2. Proclamation Recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. - Mayor Bower read a proclamation and presented it to Cecily Henderson, Executive Director of the Resource & Crisis Center of Galveston.
3. Proclamation Recognizing April 21st – 27th as National Crime Victims Week.- Mayor Bower read a proclamation and presented it to Cecily Henderson, Executive Director of the Resource & Crisis Center of Galveston.
4. Officer Promotions: Mathew Seurattan, Chistopher Nolen – Corporal Seurattan was promoted to Lieutenant. Officer Nolen was promoted to Sergeant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. City Hall Hurricane Evacuation Training – City Hall will be closed Friday April 19th.
2. Candidate Forum – Sunday April 21st 3pm – 4:30pm @ City Park
3. Officer's Recognition – There will be a reception for Sgt. Mike Gillen & Lt. Mark Posey, Sat. April 27th 12pm-4pm @ City Park.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, POLICE, AND FIRE:

- **City Administrator, Francis** – Oral / Read Aloud – Gave an update on the FY 2019/20 annual audit; Spoke about online access to utility accounts; Announced an opening for FT Building Permit Clerk / Code Enforcement as well as lifeguards; Also announced enforcement of STR posting correct occupancy limits.
- **Chief of Police, Garivey** – Attached
- **Director of Operations, Quintero** – Attached
- **Fire Chief, Baden** – Attached / Oral – Chief Baden gave an overview of the 2nd quarter activities.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Bower presented the minutes for March 28th regular city council meeting.

*Motion made by Alderwoman Jones to **approve**, seconded by Alderman Welch*

VOTE

5 AYES

0 ABSENT

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Madray: No report

Alderman Welch: No report

Alderwoman Jones:

The Resource Crisis Center invited me and others to the Annual Fundraiser to hear Jenna Quinn. She wrote a book called Pure In Heart and is about her journey to break free from sexual abuse from a family friend. Jenna with the help of her Texas State Legislators and Governor Perry, was able to pass Jenna's Law in Texas and she is on her way to pass the same at the Federal Level. Jenna's Law requires each school district to adopt and implement a prevention policy that educates students, teachers, and parents on the likely warning signs of sexual abuse.

I counted over 60 volunteers for the JBIC Cleanup Jamaica Beach Day.

Easter was so much fun and enjoyed by many. Thank you Chief Garivey, Tina and the many volunteers.

Yesterday, I attended the Galveston STR Task Force meeting. They are struggling with many of the same issues we have and are searching for solutions. I believe they will be ready to present something in June which will be quite fascinating.

JBIC is hosting Fire Chief Baden April 13th on fire safety at 9:30-10:30 Park Pavilion. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

I want to thank the Jamaica Beach Volunteer Fire Department for their quarterly update which is in the agenda packet. Let me mention something from their report: "JBVFD has an ISO rating of 3 on a scale of 1 to 10 which contributes to lower homeowners' insurance premiums for residents of Jamaica Beach."

You guys and ladies rock!

Alderman Rupertus: Thanked staff for exceeding expectations. Questioned why the council has not demanded more transparency regarding budgets. Mentioned that he has had to make several open records requests to get financials and common regular information and questioned Mayor Bower as to why she has not provided her information. Wants to see more of the financials made available to the council and public so they can be good stewards of the monies. Wants meetings to get back to the nuts and bolts of running the city with shared information. Cautioned against moving forward with a paid beach plan.

Alderman Green: No Report

Old Business:

- 1. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve proposed building permit fees.**

The City Administrator explained the proposed fee increases. Alderman Welch questioned what levels of work required permits. Lots of council discussion regarding different aspects of codes. Council would like a more detailed explanation of the requirements for each of the permits associated with the pricing structure. A works

Motion was made by Alderman Green, seconded by Alderman Rupertus to table the item until the July 11, 2024, meeting.

VOTE

4 AYES

1 ABSENT (Rupertus)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve donation of old police boat.**

*Motion made by Alderman Green to **discuss**, seconded by Alderman Rupertus*

Motion was made by Alderman Rupertus, seconded by Alderman Green to approve the donation.

VOTE

**5 AYES
0 ABSENT
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED**

2. Discussion, consideration, and take action to approve contract for lift stations rehabilitation.

*Motion was made by Alderman Rupertus to **discuss**, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Madray*

Motion was made by Alderman Rupertus, seconded by Alderman Green to give the City Administrator the authority to negotiate a contract with Branch Construction in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

**VOTE
5 AYES
0 ABSENT
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED**

3. Discussion and consideration of a draft Comprehensive Financial Management Policy.

*Motion made by Alderman Welch to **discuss**, seconded by Alderwoman Jones*

Administrator Francis walked the council through the policy, highlighting recommended best practices for several areas including bidding of financial institutions, auditing services, and review of utility rates. No changes were recommended. It will be added to the next agenda for approval.

4. Discussion, consideration, and take possible action to approve amending Ordinance 2023-17.

*Motion made by Alderwoman Jones to **discuss**, seconded by Alderman Welch.*

Motion made by Alderman Rupertus, seconded by Alderman Welch to amend ordinance 2023-17 Section 2. Employees bullet point 2 removing the phrase "and prior consent of the mayor."

**VOTE
5 AYES
0 ABSENT
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED**

5. Discussion and consideration of FY2023/24 Budget.

Mayor Bower and Administrator Francis led a discussion of the FY2023/24. They highlighted multiple funds giving details of each and explanations of any large fluctuations within the budget.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Bower presented a PowerPoint outlining the accomplishments of the year to date as well as a look into the future of the city. Additionally, she stated that signage prohibiting the concealed and open carrying of firearms will be posted outside the council chambers/court room and court offices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. **Personnel** – to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint or a charge against an officer or employee.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Madray to **adjourn into executive session** at 8:50pm, seconded by Alderwoman Jones.

VOTE
5 AYES
0 ABSENT
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED

RECONVENE

1. **Action from Executive Session:** None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Alderman Welch to **adjourn**, seconded by Alderman Rupertus. Meeting adjourned at 9:37pm

VOTE
5 AYES
0 ABSENT
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED