

City of Beach City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday,
February 25, 2014 at the Beach City Community Building.
Those present were:

MAYOR: Billy Combs

MAYOR PRO-TEM: Jackey Lasater

ALDERMAN: Doug Walker; Dana Colquitt; Paul Newman, Ray Smith

CITY ATTORNEY: Daniel Jackson

CITY SECRETARY: Evonne Donnelly

ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY: Marge Bercaw

I. Call to order:

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 6.08 pm.

Mayor Combs offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

II. Citizens Comments:

None

III. Hear report and update from Chambers County Commissioner, Rusty Senac:

Commissioner Senac updated Mayor and Council on the recent unofficial agreement between HPP and Royal Purple Raceway Park. HPP has agreed to move the rock pile in question to the North side of their property. Chambers County is considering converting the current entrance to HPP on FM 565 and making it Needlepoint Road. The County would straighten out the Right of Way and continue it down the canal. This would create access onto Needlepoint from FM 565 which currently does not exist.

There are three traffic lights planned for Hwy 146; one in front of the new Clark Elementary; one at the new Kilgore Parkway that intersects with Hwy 146, just above the railroad trestles, North of Pinehurst; and another one at the Chambers Town Center, Wal-Mart.

The City of Baytown has received a grant to put smart signalization on these lights. The lights will talk to one another possibly via radio frequencies.

There is a four lane highway with a turn lane projected for the year 2016 to run from I-10 to FM 565 South.

The County is still working on a 300'-400' tower to replace the existing 120' tower by the Beach City Volunteer Fire Department.

IV. Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of January 28, 2014:

Motion to approve minutes:

Motion: Walker

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

V. Financial Consent Agenda:

- a) Review and approve the Financial Statements for previous month.
- b) Review and approve Investment Update
- c) Review and approve Expenditures for the current month

Motion to approve the financials:

Motion: Walker

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

VI. Discussion and possible action on Policies and Procedures Manual.

Mayor Combs reviewed with Council the need for a Policies & Procedures (P&P) manual here at the City. Mayor Combs, Alderman Smith, Alderman Newman, Marge Bercaw and Evonne Donnelly, along with HR specialists Tammy Smith and Jeanne Newman, met recently to develop the layout for the new P&P manual. Mayor Combs wants to keep this as simple as possible. Mayor Combs stated that a policy is what we do; a procedure is how we do it. Our policies are our ordinances, and procedure is how we administrate the ordinance. Alderman Newman suggested that the committee brainstorms a list, then let the Council as a whole decide the priorities of how to go about this and take it back to the committee and do this in small steps.

Attorney Jackson suggested that Council compartmentalize: What are your functions and how do you perform those functions? Then develop a step by step guide.

VII. Discussion and possible action on updating Personnel Rules and Regulations.

Discussion among Council regarding the pay period start and end dates. Also, modifications need to be made to the paid holiday schedule.

Motion to revise the City of Beach City Personnel Rules and Regulations, with respect to changing the pay period; the pay period will end on the second Sunday of a given month and commence on that following Monday. Also, we will revise it to include the holiday Schedule that was passed in December which has eight fixed holidays and two floaters.

Motion: Newman

Second: Lasater

Approved: 5-0

VIII. Discussion and possible action changing Alderman and Mayor terms and election dates.

The Council and Mayor discussed the probability of adding a Proposition to the November ballot for the repositioning of Council and Mayor terms. Mayor Combs discussed with Council the idea of revising the elections from a two year term to a three year term. This would allow for alternating the Mayor and one Alderman the first year, then two Alderman the second and third year. Mayor Combs stated that there is a possibility of losing continuity in the event of an election upset. Council mentioned adding the Proposition to the City Survey, and will revisit this subject at the March Council meeting.

IX. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2014-1 to add a left turn lane at FM 2354 and McCollum Park Road.

Mayor Combs met with Cory Taylor at TXDOT. Beach City needs to send a letter to the County requesting a Southbound left turn lane, on FM 2354 and McCollum Park Road.

Alderman Walker requested that Mayor Combs write the letter of request.

X. Discussion and possible action on setting a date for Sit Down with Santa in December.

Jay Hammes gave the final calculations to Council from the December 2013 Sit Down with Santa: \$203.33 Party City; \$514.39 Lyons Distributing and \$ 65.16 Wal-Mart for drinks; for a total of \$782.88.

Ms. Hammes stated that there was approximately \$500-\$600 in additional donated food and drink items from the volunteers. Also, there was an estimated 200-250 people in attendance.

Any leftover food was donated.

Motion to set the date for Sit Down with Santa on December 6, 2014.

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

XI. Discussion and possible action on a bid for built-in bookshelves.

Motion to accept bid from Barney Chambliss to build bookshelves for the City office, with amendment.

Motion: Walker

Second: Lasater

Approved: 5-0

Motion to amend Alderman Walker's motion to include \$100.00 to the amount so the bookshelf goes all the way to the floor with two doors.

Motion: Colquitt

Second: Lasater

Approved: 5-0

XII. Discussion and possible action on Fund Raiser for the Fallen Heroes Memorial.

Mayor Combs and Council reviewed the donation letter and agreed to add signatures for each Alderman and the Mayor to the letter.

Mayor Combs informed Council that a checking account has been opened

with \$20.00 from the General Fund Checking account, in the name of:
City of Beach City Fallen Heroes Memorial.

XIII. Update, discussion and possible action on the City Survey.

Alderman Colquitt will reword the survey and remove item five, no changes to page two, and on page three she will change USPS to United States Postal Service and add another yes or no for the second half of the question. Also, bold and underline the sentence about remaining anonymous.

Motion to send out the City of Beach City Survey 2014 as written by Dana Colquitt with the following exceptions: Delete item number five in its entirety; renumber the whole thing subsequent to missing number five; nothing on page two; item currently number twenty-three change the abbreviation from USPS to United States Postal Service; add a second question which would be number twenty four on the current numbering system, if yes have you called or filed a complaint, etc. separate yes or no question; and on the paragraph on the end bold face and underline, you do not have to have your name or address if you wish to remain anonymous.

Motion: Smith

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

XIV. Discussion and possible action on purchasing flags from the Barbers Hill Lions Club Flag Program, to be placed in front of the City building on patriotic holidays.

Motion to purchase four flags to put out front.

Motion: Walker

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

XV. Hear report and updates from the Mayor:

Mayor Combs provided a written report to Council: See attachment. Mayor Combs stated that The Natural Gas Company-TNGC- has tied into the gas lines that CenterPoint Gas has run from RWJ to McCollum Park Road. The Natural Gas Company has to notify the City of Beach City if they purchase gas from a different supplier. No such contact has been made from TNGC. The Mayor has received calls from some Barrow Ranch residents regarding their high gas bills. Residents also want to know when they'll be done paying back TNGC Barrow Ranch Gas Purchase Adjustment recoupment. Secretary Donnelly has spoken with Mr. Lannou and sent an email, prior to this meeting, requesting this information, and is still waiting on a response from TNGC.

Buddy Smart of Smart Materials can put in a deceleration lane under the supervision of TXDOT, that would allow trucks heading South on FM 2354 to move over off of the highway traffic. The Sand Pit has asphalted eight hundred feet back off of their driveway. They are also planning on adding a mud shaker for the trucks to drive over before entering onto FM 2354, thus preventing some of the mud and dirt issues that have been occurring on

FM 2354.

Mayor Combs spoke with Commissioner Senac regarding an OSSF Interlocal Agreement. Commissioners Court tabled the request until the County Attorney has time to review the revised draft that the Commissioner presented.

XVI. Council Member Comments:

Alderman Colquitt stated that Secretary Donnelly needs to have her picture taken to be added onto the City's website.

Alderman Walker reminded Council that he still has tickets for sale for the Baytown Rotary Club Festival.

XVII. Adjournment:

Motion made to adjourn at 8:53pm:

Motion: Smith


Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

ATTEST TO:


City Secretary
Evonne Donnelly

APPROVED BY:


Mayor
Billy Combs

1. The Natural Gas Company

- I've received several emails from TNGC customers concerning extremely high gas bills. There isn't a lot we can do about it but I do want to keep a close watch on this. Evonne is checking to see what the balance of the payoff is and when the anticipated payoff date will be. As of now I haven't heard if TNGC is getting gas from CenterPoint nor have we received any new test results.

2. Danger from mud spread on the road from trucks at the Sand Pit.

- We have a meeting scheduled to meet with the pit owner and operator the day of our council meeting, I'll up you at the council meeting.

3. Telecommunication Interest

- Last month I reported that I met with two companies to discuss running fiber throughout Beach City. Comcast continues to show interest and we have spoken a couple of times. The industrial group will be running fiber through Cedar Crossing and will come close to Beach City in the process. Commissioner Senac and I have talked with them about bringing the fiber to FM 2354 via the abandoned right of way for McKinney Road. We're still working on this and expect (hope) that something will come of it. We are also adding an item on the survey to ask our residents what their level is in fiber service.

4. As you requested at our last council meeting I asked the county to consider entering into an interlocal agreement for OSSF inspections. I asked for an agreement for back up inspections and for the possibility to expand to full time inspection at some date in the future. I expect this will be an agenda item next month.

5. A meeting to discuss and plan a fund raiser for Alderman Colquitt is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

6. As of this date we have not received notice of an appeal by Aqua Texas. I spoke with Tracy Fisher about the Rate Payers from outside of the city's case. They have been in mediation and are in the middle of negotiations. As of the date we spoke they had not reached an agreement.