

City of Beach City Council

Regular Called Meeting Minutes

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Called Meeting on **February 28, 2017** beginning at approximately 6:00 P.M. at the Beach City Community Building 12723 FM 2354 Beach City, TX. 77523

Members Present: Mayor Billy Combs (presiding), Mayor Pro Tem Jackey Lasater, Alderman Paul Newman, Alderman Dana Colquitt, Alderman Ray Smith and Alderman Doug Walker

Members Arriving Late:

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Assistant Secretary Marge Bercaw

Staff Absent: City Secretary Evonne Donnelly

Legal Counsel Present: City Attorney Daniel Jackson

1. Call to order and announcement of quorum

On Tuesday February 28, 2017 Mayor Combs announced enough members are present for a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Public Comments (Limited to five minutes per person)

None

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

Chambers County Day in Austin was a smashing success on February 22, 2017.

At a recent meeting of the Chambers County Commissioners Court, the Commissioner's unanimously rescinded a vote that some of the Commissioners passed in December 2016, regarding a \$38 million-dollar Certificate of Obligation to build a new jail. While Commissioner Senac is for a new jail, he voted against the \$38 million-dollar Certificate of Obligation in December. The need for a new jail is great but, the proposal will need some work before it is brought back to Commissioners Court.

Discussion on the size a jail needs to be: the current jail is at capacity and the continued cost of housing an inmate(s) at another jail outside of Chambers County when our jails are full, is expensive.

The new H.E.B. in Mont Belvieu is scheduled to open sometime in 2018. The H.E.B. in Baytown will open this year.

Commissioner Senac noted that a grant was received for a sub-regional study on Hwy 146 from Cedar Bayou to the Chambers-Liberty County line. This should give some clarity on how to increase mobility on Hwy 146. Another issue is how to get more of the traffic to use the new Kilgore Parkway. This study is being conducted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC).

5. Hear report and update from Beach City Volunteer Fire Department (BCVFD)

Chief McDonald presented Council with an update on the new truck, which is out front for Council to see. The first payment will not be until March of 2018.

Dedication of the new fire truck will be in three weeks on March 25, 2017.

In honor of Robert Campise's late wife Nicol, Engine 82 has been named after her. A ceremony was held for the new truck in Wisconsin (where the truck was purchased); Robert and his brother were flown in for the dedication.

The timeline for the BCVFD renovations is unclear. Chief McDonald has been in touch with Chambers County Assistant Engineer Mike Lessley on this matter.

TGS (Trans Global Services) wants a mutual aid agreement with the BCVFD and they have three or four guys who have training in firefighting. They have offered support to the BCVFD to cover the VFD during the day. Currently, TGS pays Baytown close to a million dollars a year.

The BCVFD ISO rating is at an 8 and the Chief would like to see it down to a 6, which would save the residents money. This hopefully will be obtained with the new Engine 82.

6. Approval of Minutes for Special Called Meeting of January 17th, 2017

Motion to approve

Motion: Newman

Second: Lasater

Approved: 5-0

7. Financial Consent Agenda (All financial consent agenda items are considered routine by Council and will be enacted by one motion. A Councilmember may request an item to be removed and considered separately.)

(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

(d) Discussion and possible action on CD maturing March 2017

Motion to approve the financial consent agenda

Motion: Newman

Second: Walker

Approved: 5-0

Discussion: Mayor Combs noted the BBVA CD for \$101k matures tomorrow, March 1st.

Secretary Donnelly previously informed Mayor Combs the best rate currently available is at Capital Bank for .90% for twelve months and .95% for eighteen months.

8. Consider and adopt a Resolution authorizing signatures for the new CD

Motion to authorize said resolution

Motion: Lasater

Second: Walker

Approved: 5-0

9. Hear report and update on Beach City Water Control & Improvement District (WCID)

Last month Council passed a Resolution authorizing the formation of the Beach City WCID. There has been a delay getting the WCID on the Chambers County Commissioners Court Agenda for their approval. This delay is due to the legal notice not being published in a timely fashion in The Baytown Sun. The notice ran in the paper last week and the second notice will run in tomorrow's paper. The WCID is scheduled to be on the Commissioners Court agenda for March 14, 2017. Chambers County must approve the formation of a WCID within the County. An appointed, interim board is in place for the WCID until elections are held in November. The November election will ratify the formation of the district and elect an official board. After a successful election, the WCID may then issue debt.

10. Consider and approve funding to join other municipalities in financially supporting the Bay Area Coastal Protection Alliance (BACPA) in the making of a short film that informs and educates the viewer about storm surge, etc.

Mayor Bechtel, of Morgan's Point asked Mayor Combs if Council would consider financially supporting the making of a sort film about the Ike Dike – Coastal Spine. This film would educate the viewer about the dangers of storm surge, flooding and runoff to the Port of Houston as a result of storms and hurricanes. The film will describe how the Ike Dike will mitigate the risks to property, commerce and human life.

Mayor Combs proposed that Beach City contribute \$1,000 to the making of this video.

Motion to approve

Motion: Lasater

Second: Smith

Approved: 5-0

11. Discuss and consider action for additional streetlights within Beach City

Aldermen Colquitt and Newman, aka the street light committee, received a list of areas of concern from the BHISD Transportation Director, Becky Nelson. Secretary Donnelly requested the school bus drivers input on the areas of town that are possibly in need of streetlights when loading or unloading school children.

Alderman Colquitt asked Sheriff Hawthorne if his Deputies would also send their input on the areas of town that are possibly in need of additional lightening. Both lists were similar to what the two Aldermen witnessed as they toured the City one night making their observations.

Recommendations for additional streetlights from the committee are:

1. FM 2354 and Carroll street
 2. FM 2354 and McKinney
 3. McCollum Park Road and Leon Street (as you are entering Walker Parkview Subdivision).
- Fire Chief McDonald will look into this as well and give Council his feedback.

The City will send Commissioner Senac an official request to add reflective tape to stop signs in order to assist other areas of town at nighttime.

12. Update and discussion from the citizen's committee evaluating the need of a Sales & Use Tax for Beach City

The Sales & Use Tax Committee (Aldermen Newman and Smith) recently met with Mayor Combs and several of the area business owners. The meeting was held to learn more about the type of businesses the individuals have and to discuss if they would support a Sales & Use Tax. Currently the State allows for a maximum of 8.25% sales tax; to which Beach City's tax rate is 6.75%. The State gets the 6.25% and Chambers County Health District gets .50%. The business owners discussed the pros and cons of implementing a sales tax in Beach City.

13. Discussion and possible action on an Ordinance regulating Billboards within Beach City

Council will review this ordinance and add their input, per Mayor Combs suggestions to tweak the ordinance as it stands. The secretary will forward it to Council, per the Mayor's request.

14. Update and discussion on non-compliance to City ordinances regarding On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF's)

The City will be audited by TCEQ (TX. Commission on Environmental Quality) on March 8, 2017. Currently there are no outstanding OSSF violations in the City.

Note: The City must report and update Council each month about any outstanding OSSF violations, per TCEQ's audit in 2010.

15. Final update and discussion on the City Survey results

Assistant Secretary Bercaw has done an outstanding job in compiling all 2016 survey results and completing a Survey Comparison Review of years 2016, 2014 and 2011.

Mayor Combs will mail out the Survey Comparison Results in an email blast to the residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Lasater will upload the results to the City's website.

The Survey Committee, Alderman Walker and Mayor Pro Tem Lasater, will review the survey and bring back to Council recommendations for any actions they feel are needed.

16. Report and update from Mayor Combs

Mayor Combs updated Council on the status of the new and upcoming Thunder Bay Estates Subdivision.

The next funding for the BC CEFFC (Beach City Cultural Education Facilities Finance Corporation) is still awaiting approval from the City of Houston, where the HACS (Houston Area Community Services) originates.

Mayor Combs reviewed the permits issued to date with Council

Some local area Mayors have asked Mayor Combs to oppose SB 2. Senator Bettencourt and

Senator Brandon Creighton were appointed by the Governor's office to research the ad valorem tax cap. SB 2 seeks, among other things, to lower the rollback rate from 8 percent to 5 percent.

17. Council Comments

Alderman Newman is concerned about the drivers passing other drivers in the turn lane on FM 3180. Aldermen Walker and Smith spoke about the serious traffic backup on TX 99 and Tri-City Beach Road, at the red light. Traffic is usually backed up from the red light all the way back to the four way stop at FM 1405. The overpass on TX. 99 is not due for completion for a long time.

18. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

Minutes Approved on February 28, 2017



Billy Combs, Mayor

Attest:



Evonne Donnelly, City Secretary