

# **City of Beach City Council Minutes for Regular Meeting**

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on  
**July 26, 2016** 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 Doug Walker and Alderman Colquitt

**Members Arriving Late:** Alderman Newman arrived at 6:15 pm

**Staff Present:** City Secretary Evonne Donnelly and Assistant Secretary Marge Bercaw

**Legal Counsel Present:** City Attorney Daniel Jackson

## **1. Call to order and announcement of Quorum**

On Tuesday, July 26, 2016 Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and announced enough members are present for a quorum.

## **2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Combs offered prayer.

Alderman Lasater 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**

The compression station on the south end of Beach City located on Bayside Drive, off of Cedar Point Road, is once again getting noise complaints. Apparently one of the owners of this facility is now in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy.

Beach City will submit an approximate cost estimate for the expansion project of the City office to Chambers County Commissioner's Court this week.

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

BCVFD will be submitting an expansion plan to Chambers County Commissioners Court prior to their budget meeting.

The BCVFD received notice that their 501C3 status has been reinstated.

Today, Commissioner's Court approved the 2015 budget amount for the BCVFD to be released to them since their 501C3 status has been restored. The County could not release these funds last year without this status in place.

The station's expansion project will not be complete prior to the arrival of the new pumper truck at the end of this year.

The Poker Run raised approximately \$19,000. There are several expenses that will have to be paid out of this profit.

**6. Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Motion** to approve the minutes of June 28, 2016

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Lasater

**Approve:** 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) Review and approve Revised Budget for FY 2015-2016

(e) Review and approve the Financial Statements for FY 2015-2016

Prior to any motions being made, Mayor Combs requested that Council discuss Item (d) Review and approve Revised Budget for FY 2015-2016. Each Alderman has a Proposed Revised Budget on their desk which also includes an updated Budget vs. Actual Financial Report. A change was made to the report after the original agenda packet was emailed; due to an expense for the Fallen Heroes Memorial (FHM) listed in the wrong category. The mistake was corrected by allocating the expense to the appropriate FHM category. Looking at Revised Budget FY 2015-2016 there is only one category that came in over budget, Special Contractual Services. This overage is attributed to the Child Safety Fee Fund sent to the City from Chambers County and money from the City's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

None of the categories as a whole came in over budget, with the exception of the aforementioned category. Mayor Combs added that some of the subcategories were slightly over their budgeted amounts. Money was taken from one sub account and placed into the overage subaccount in order to equal out those particular subcategories. The Beach City Volunteer Fire Department (BCVFD) account was one penny (.01¢) over budget. Mayor Combs subtracted a penny from Election Expense and added it to the BCVFD category.

Note: Item 4000: Special Contractual Services, \$12,693.30 was added to this account to compensate for the expenses paid out of this account. Money was shuffled around in a few

subcategories, within the confines of the budget.

Overall the budget was increased by \$12,693.30. For the entire year there is a fund balance of \$29,880.49.

Alderman Walker understands the need to make revisions to the budget when there are items over one hundred percent. He questioned, what goes down in history the revised budget, or the original budget? Mayor Combs replied, both.

**Motion** to approve the Financials

**Motion:** Lasater

**Second:** Walker

**Approve:** 5-0

BREAK: 7:08 P.M.

RECONVENE: 7:13 P.M.

**8. November 8, 2016 City Election:**

- a) Authorize Order of Election and Notice of Election for November 8, 2016
- b) Appoint Election Committee

**Motion** to nominate Marge and Evonne as the election committee and to Authorize the Order of Election for November 08, 2016.

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approve:** 5-0

**9. Update and discussion on applications filed for a place on the City ballot for November 8<sup>th</sup> elections**

No applications filed with the City Secretary as of this date.

**10. Hear update and discussion on Chambers County Emergency Management from Roy 'Kim' Turner**

Mr. Turner presented a hurricane slide show to Council and reviewed the necessity for having a plan in place in the event a major storm threatens our area of the coast line. If you should need assistance to evacuate call 2-1-1 to register in advance of a storm. Chambers County uses the Code Red program which will send alerts to your phone in the event of a natural disaster, gas leaks, flooding, etc. You may access this link via the Chambers County website by going to the Emergency Management Link and then click on the Code Red logo.

**11. Discuss/Consider/Approve Disaster Policies and Procedures (P&P) regarding supplies, office equipment and records**

Mayor Combs and Secretary Donnelly recently discussed the need for a disaster plan to be in place for the City office. Here are some of the items discussed:

- a). What records, items, and equipment would need to be removed from the office in the event of a major hurricane, flooding, disaster etc.?
- b). Where would these items be taken too?



c). Who is responsible for taking these items from the office to their destination?  
Mayor Combs asked Council what they would like to do and how they would like to handle this. Alderman Smith suggested that off-site storage would probably be best. Scanned copies should be stored somewhere off-site.  
The City currently stores all electronic documents to the cloud via DropBox. Mayor Combs noted that this is not a true cloud back-up.  
Secretary Donnelly will gather information on local storage options and a cloud back-up that could better benefit the City.

**12. Discuss and consider Policies & Procedures (P&P) for City Management Structure**

Discuss at a later date.

**13. Discussion and possible action for recognition of Margaret Gainer's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday**

Mayor Combs asked Council if they would like to give former longtime City Secretary Margaret Gainer a card, flowers and/or gift for her birthday on August 27, 2016. Council agreed to purchase a card and flowers to give Ms. Gainer for her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.  
Assistant Secretary Marge Bercau suggested that Council invite Ms. Gainer to the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting to present her with the card and flowers, and to have a cake on hand for her. Council concurred.

**14. Discussion and possible action on City Participation for improvements to the Beach City Community Building and City office expansion**

Alderman Smith will put together a sketch to give to Chambers County Commissioners Court. Council agreed that a request of \$20,000 for the expansion to the City office would be sufficient.

**Motion** to request \$20,000 from Chambers County Commissioners Court for the City office expansion

**Motion:** Smith

**Second:** Newman

**Approved:** 5-0

**15. Discussion and possible action on the possible formation of a Utility District for areas served by Nerro Supply, LLC/Gulf Utility, within the corporate limits of Beach City**

Discussion on the July 13, 2016 meeting for residents of Bayridge and Oaks at Houston Point subdivisions. There were approximately 40 residents from the two subdivisions in attendance, along with Alderman Newman, Alderman Walker, Mayor Combs, Financial Advisor Bill Blitch, Engineer Mark Adam and Attorney Ryan LaRue with SKLaw. The residents do not want a tax and are considering the option of revenue bonds.

The utility committee and/or residents will now be in charge of scheduling their own meetings, etc. regarding this matter.

**16. Discuss and consider creation of the City of Beach City Cultural Education Facilities Finance Corporation (CEFFC)**

Aldermen Colquitt and Walker met last week and came up with a series of questions. They each made several phone calls to other cities that have participated in the CEFFC program. Most of the cities contacted were enthusiastically happy with the CEFFC and had a positive experience. Two cities that Alderman Walker contacted were fine with the program but unhappy with Financial Advisor Bill Blitch. The City of Roman Forrest was very unhappy with Mr. Blitch, since he would not return their phone calls and they wanted to stay in the program.

There is another individual/group that is a part of the CEFFC, other than Mr. Blitch.

All in all, several of the cities did not like Mr. Blitch, but are happy with this program as a whole.

Alderman Smith is on record as suspicious of this program.

Council did agree to move forward and Mayor Combs will contact Mr. Blitch to discuss the next step of this process.

**17. Hear report and update from the Beach City Sales Tax Committee**

Last month Aldermen Smith and Newman recommended that the City move forward with educating the residents on the need for a local Sales & Use Tax.

Council would like to host a town hall meeting and include information regarding the Sales & Use Tax in the 2016-2017 City Survey.

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

Alderman Walker and Mayor Pro Tem Lasater are waiting for Attorney Jackson to complete the billboard ordinance.

**19. Report and update from Mayor Combs**

1. Complaints are on the rise in Beach City
2. Eight of the nine city street lights have been converted to LED's
3. The Jordan Road streetlight will be in place within the next three weeks
4. Alderman Walker and Mayor Pro Tem Lasater will make up the City Survey Committee

**20. Council Comments**

Mayor Pro Tem Lasater would like for anyone wanting a particular item on the City Survey to contact Secretary Donnelly.

**21. Adjourn**

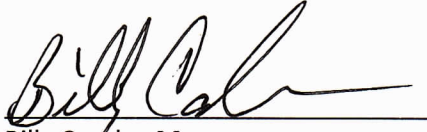
**Motion** to adjourn at 8:00 pm

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Lasater

**Approve:** 5-0

Date Minutes Approved: August 23, 2016

  
Billy Combs, Mayor

Attest:

  
Evonne Donnelly, City Secretary