

City of Beach City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

The Beach City, City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at the Beach City Community Building.

Those present were:

MAYOR: Billy Combs

MAYOR PRO TEM: Jackey Lasater

ALDERMAN: Paul Newman; Doug Walker; Ray Smith

ABSENT - Dana Colquitt

CITY ATTORNEY: Daniel Jackson

CITY ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Evonne Donnelly

I. Call to order:

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order Tuesday February 26, 2013 at 6:06 pm and offered prayer.

Alderman Walker 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 the Mayor and Council on the projected start date of Kilgore Parkway which is set to begin on April 1, 2013. This will include the segment from Grand Parkway, to Hwy. 146. The anticipated completion of the parkway is set for August 2014.

The County is looking to implement a regional detention pond to help preserve appraised values of properties. The County would build a reservoir around the area of the rail, and the County would charge an Impact Fee to the companies looking to build, start projects, etc.

Commissioner Senac spoke of the excessive amount of calls regarding the large amount of mud on the 2354 cutoff. The Sheriff's office was a factor in getting the trucks to enter and exit off of FM. 3180.

The County has several projects going on in the Beach City area: RWJ Airpark; Lawrence Gully and Barrow Ranch.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of December 18, 2012 and Regular Meeting of January 21, 2013:

Mayor informed Council that last month there was an error on the Agenda regarding the December 18, 2012 Minutes, moving the approval of the amended December 18, 2012 minutes to this meeting.

MOTION to approve the December 18, 2012 and the January 21, 2013 Minutes.

Motion: Walker Second: Newman Approved: 4-0

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 Financial Consent Agenda.

Motion: Walker Second: Newman Approved: 4-0

VI. Set dates for Council Workshop and a Public Hearing for Statement of Intent of The Natural Gas Company, LLC to Increase Rates Within the Incorporated City Limits of Beach City, Texas:

Council agreed to hold the Workshop on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:00 pm, here at the Beach City Community Building.

VII. Approve aerial application methods for the purpose of Mosquito Control within the Corporate Limits of Beach City, Texas:

MOTION to authorize the aerial application for the purpose of mosquito control.

Motion: Lasater Second: Newman Approved: 4-0

VIII. Hear and Adopt Resolution 2013-1 to preserve the Second Amendment Rights of the Citizens of Beach City:

Alderman Smith read aloud Resolution 2013-1. Alderman Walker expressed his opposition to said Resolution stating that having a concealed handgun license, and owning handguns or rifles is enough for him. The ability to own an AK-47 with a thirty bullet clip is not necessary to protect Alderman Walker's family, or home. Aldermen Lasater, Smith and Newman each voiced their views on their right to purchase, or own any gun of their choice. Mayor Combs read aloud a letter from Alderman Colquitt regarding her support for said Resolution.

MOTION to accept Resolution 2013-1.

Motion: Newman

Second: Smith

Approved: 3-1

IX. Consider Adopting Resolution 2013-2 Objecting to an additional “At Grade” Rail Crossing on FM 565 South, if it would impede traffic flow and reduce traffic safety:

Mayor Combs reviewed with Council the proposal from Union Pacific and Rail Logix to add a second railroad track at the existing crossing on FM 565 South, just before you get to FM 1405. Rail Logix owns and operates the rail system for AmeriPort. The amount of railcars will multiply anywhere from four to eight times their current rate, if this proposal is passed. The purpose of adding the second track would help the companies switch and pick up an entire uni-train in lots of one hundred. Commissioner Senac updated Council and Mayor on the Chambers County Commissioners meeting held on February 26, 2013. Commissioners Court reviewed the report and voted 3-1 to support the permit that has been filed with TX-DOT. Now the permit will go onto the next level for a vote with the Texas Transportation Commission. Commissioner Senac voted against the permit for two reasons; Safety and the Impact on the residents. The Commissioner does not feel this rail addition would do anything to improve the safety of the traveling public using this East, West corridor.

MOTION to Draft a Resolution addressed to TX-DOT and/or the affected parties encouraging the start of studies for Grade Separation.

Motion: Newman

Second: Smith

Approved: 4-0

X. Executive Session Authorized by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, concerning Personnel Issues regarding City Secretary and Office Assistance Personnel:

Regular Meeting suspended for Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

XI. Consider Action concerning City Secretary and Office Assistance Personnel:

Mayor and Council returned at 8:20 pm to continue the Regular Meeting.

MOTION to accept Margaret Gainer’s retirement.

Motion: Walker

Second: Newman

Approved: 4- 0

MOTION to extend an offer to Evonne Donnelly to accept the position of Interim City Secretary until Margaret Gainer retires, and at that time an offer of Permanent City Secretary will be extended.

Motion: Smith

Second: Walker

Approved: 4-0

XII. Hear Report and Updates from the Mayor:

Mayor Combs reminded the Council that The American Red Cross will host a Crawfish Cook-Off fundraiser to be held at Whites Park on April 13, 2013.

The Mayor and Alderman Walker are both selling tickets for the Baytown Rotary Fish Fry.

Mayor Combs will meet with the district manager of CenterPoint Gas Company on Feb. 28, 2013 to see if they will extend their gas lines to provide service to the North end of Beach City. Currently their lines run from the South end and stop close to Cedar Gully Road.

DropBox is currently synchronized, and up and running.

Mayor Combs told Council the he and the City Secretary will be working in the upcoming months to compile a Policies and Procedures Manual for the city. In years past, most of the information pertaining to policies or procedures has been stored in the heads of the City Secretary and the Mayor. The Mayor feels that it is time to put this information on paper.

CenterPoint has been doing a lot of upgrades in our area. There will be two new "feeds" down Fishers Road. One will tie into Circuit "A" which will go North; and the other feed will tie into Circuit "B" which will go South.

Johnnie Johnson, our local Service Consultant, sent over a map for Council to view. CenterPoint is also adding an automated switching gear that will detect an outage as soon as it occurs.

Mayor Combs received a packet from Commissioner Senac requesting a road closure by a Beach City resident. This road is actually a Right of Way that the City owns located on the North end of Ocean Drive, connecting to FM 2354; turn North onto Ocean Drive off of Jordan Road proceed to the dead end. This was an unincorporated area and when the roads were first laid out, the County bought and mapped out several Right of Ways and easements for roads that were never utilized. The unofficial request is that the City officially close the road and sell the Right of Way to the resident. FEMA has sent to the City a set of drawings and maps showing that they have remapped Chambers County for the Flood Insurance Maps. According to Mayor Combs, most of the changes are negative for Beach City. The base flood elevation for most of the waterfront side was raised from eighteen feet to nineteen feet. Mayor Combs stated that most of the adversely affected residents live at the very end Walker Subdivision, toward the Marsh. FEMA has not returned the Mayors phone call regarding a public meeting to answer questions that the residents may have.

Commissioner Senac commented on a possible Eagle sighting at McCollum Park which could delay the Living Shoreline Project.

XIII. Council Member Comments:

Alderman Smith told Evonne Donnelly she has done a great job since she has been with the City.

XIV. Adjournment:

MOTION made to adjourn meeting at 8:23 pm:

Motion: Newman

Second: Walker

Approved: 4-0

ATTEST TO:



Evonne Donnelly
Assistant City Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Billy Combs
Mayor