

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

The Beach City, City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 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; Dana Colquitt

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Daniel Jackson

**CITY ASSISTANT SECRETARY:** Evonne Donnelly

## **I. Call to order:**

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order Tuesday March 26, 2013 at 6:08 pm and offered prayer.

Stayton Sartor 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 what appears to be railcar switching on the track at FM 565 South, which blocked traffic on FM 565 and FM 1405. The County is investigating the issue.

There is a new \$150 million Steel Mill project, aka Golden Horn, being built South of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center on FM 1405. The new mill will rest on approximately 182 acres. Scheduled completion is set for the first quarter of 2015.

Commissioner Senac stated that someone has approached him and suggested a TX-DOT review of the speed limit on FM 2354 and FM 3180. This request was triggered by Cody Lane's accident last Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> involving a school bus.

Alderman Lasater recommends that the Commissioner have TX-DOT reevaluate the passing lines on FM 1405, which he believes are inadequate. While Mayor Combs feels the passing lines are inadequate

on FM 2354 at McCollum Park Road. Commissioner Senac will ask TX-DOT to look at these areas of concerns on our roadways.

**IV. Public Hearing for Statement of Intent of The Natural Gas Company, LLC to Increase Rates Within the Incorporated City Limits of Beach City, Texas.**

Public hearing closed without anyone in attendance wanting to speak.

- V. Consider and act on a Statement of Intent by The Natural Gas Company, LLC to Increase Rates Within the Incorporated City Limits of Beach City, Texas. Possible Actions Include;**
- 1. Take No Action. (This will allow the rate increase to automatically take effect per the statement of intent)**
  - 2. Deny the Rate Increase**
  - 3. Grant a Lower Rate than the Requested Rate Increase**
  - 4. Approve the Rate Increase**

Alderman Newman reviewed a Miscellaneous Cost Comparison Chart with Council. Mr. Lannou with The Natural Gas Company arrived during Alderman Newman's review of the chart with Council.

Alderman Colquitt questioned Mr. Lannou on what other things he has done for customers that would cover his other charges for service work on customer installations. Mr. Lannou replied it is for work that has to be done, we call it anything from the main, to their house installation. When Alderman Colquitt made the statement that she has had two complaints from people not being able to reach Mr. Lannou; he asked who the people are. Alderman Colquitt stated she would not say their names.

Mr. Lannou then stated that he wants to file a complaint against Alderman Colquitt since she is a City Council member, and according to Mr. Lannou, by law she should have filled out a written report and called Mr. Lannou to ask him if the what she heard about him is true. Alderman Colquitt stated that she just found out about this on Monday and how would she report it to City Council before then? Mr. Lannou replied it's the law.

Alderman Lasater feels that most of Mr. Lannou's charges are more than CenterPoint's charges at this time. Alderman Lasater asked Mr. Lannou, in a previous conversation; why he wanted to raise his reconnect fee for someone who has had their gas turned off for non-payment. Currently CenterPoint charges \$40.00; Mr. Lannou charges \$50.00 and wants to raise the fee to \$75.00. Mr. Lannou responded to Alderman Lasater that CenterPoint sends someone from Baytown and he has to drive further.

The Committee's recommendation to Council is that the commodities and miscellaneous costs remain the same, with no increase. While adding an Institution of Service fee of \$40.00. The base rate/minimum monthly charge

will be raised from \$14.00 to \$16.50; a \$2.50 increase.

Alderman Walker asked Mr. Lannou how he felt about the committee's decision. Mr. Lannou replied that it was not going to be enough and the only thing he can do about it is to cut costs.

Mayor Combs reminded Mr. Lannou that he has appeal rights. Mayor Combs also thanked the committee for their hard work.

**Motion** to accept the committee's recommendation of No increase to the Commodities and Miscellaneous Charges, but raise the base rate/minimum monthly fee by \$2.50, to \$16.50, while also implementing a \$ 40.00 Institution of Service Fee.

Motion: Walker

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

**VI. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and Special Meeting of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Motion** to accept the Minutes:

Motion: Walker

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

**VII. 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**

Alderman Walker pointed out that the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual was configured through March 20, 2013 as opposed to Feb. 28, 2013. Alderman Walker also questioned line #3170, the Books and Subscriptions costs.

Mayor Combs reviewed the Expenditures with Council, noting that there is close to eleven thousand dollars in expenditures this month. Typically there is around four thousand in expenses. The Mayor reminded Council that Ms. Gainer's vacation and sick pay were attributed to her retirement.

Mayor Combs discussed the large payment to Reggie Nalley of \$1,700.00, explaining that he has not been paid for most of his inspections since last fall.

Mayor Combs informed Council that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) - On Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) permits have not been filed since June of 2011. The interim secretary has spoken with someone at TCEQ-OSSF and submitted the proper On-site Activity Reporting System (OARS) documentation. The City is currently waiting on a response from TCEQ.

Alderman Lasater asked if there is a system the City can adopt to insure that this sort of thing does not happen again. Mayor Combs replied that we are in the process of compiling a Policy & Procedures manual.

**Motion** to accept the financials; noting that the months listed on the Financials – Budget vs. Actual - are incorrectly stated as July 1, 2012 – March 20, 2013:

Motion: Walker

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

**VIII. Approve Authorized Signatures for TexPool bank account.**

Mayor Combs discussed with Council that some former Council members are still on the Signature list for the TexPool account. There was discussion amongst Council and the City Attorney as to how many Council members should be on the signature card of the City's financial accounts.

Mayor Combs advised Council that it takes two authorized signatures to remove a former councilman's name from the signature card.

Alderman Newman suggested that removing the names of former Aldermen Nick Bercau and Rita Standridge from the TexPool authorized signature list, should be handled administratively.

**IX. Approve Interim Secretary for Bank Account Access for viewing account information.**

**Motion** to approve the Interim City Secretary to view bank account information:

Smith

Second: Newman

Approved: 5- 0

Motion:

**X. Hear Report and Updates from the Mayor:**

Alderman Colquitt reminded the Council that The American Red Cross Crawfish Cook-Off Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2013. Mayor Combs discussed with Council the idea of allowing Chambers County to process all of the City's septic permits. The Mayor asked for two Council members to form a committee to review the pros and cons of turning the permitting over to the County. Aldermen Walker and Smith, along with Mayor Combs will head up the Permit Review Committee. Mayor Combs also noted that at times it is difficult for us to reach our current Inspector, Reggie Nalley.

Mayor Combs has met with CenterPoint's Gas Company inviting them to extend their service area throughout Beach City. CenterPoint appears to be receptive to the idea. Currently CenterPoint's natural gas service area runs on the North side of RWJ, and the South end of Beach City up to Cedar Gully Rd. The Mayor along with Aldermen Walker and Newman will head up a committee to continue the dialogue with CenterPoint regarding this matter.

Secretary Donnelly reviewed with the Mayor and Council the City Officials Training Record. The purpose was to verify that everyone is up to date on any training that maybe required for the Council and Mayor.

Mayor Combs also updated Council on the issue with our 281-383-3180 number. Verizon ported our number from Internet America in February. A decision was made to leave the number with Verizon. Now, Level 3 Communications has ported the 281-383-3180 number from Verizon. At this time, Verizon is handling this issue.

Mayor Combs will now give a monthly update to Council on the number of permits issued each month from the City.

Mayor and Council discussed available days to plant the azaleas for Ms. Gainer, with Easter Sunday being the agreed upon day.

Mayor Combs informed Council that BHHS is hosting a Blood Drive in Honor of Cody Lane on March 28, 2013.

Assistant City Secretary Evonne Donnelly gave a health update on the status of Beach City resident Cody Lane.

**XI. Council Member Comments:**

Alderman Walker questioned Mayor Combs if he thought Mr. Lannou would appeal the Council's decision on TNGC's rate increase.

Alderman Walker also reminded Council that he is selling Rotary Club Raffle tickets.

**XII. Adjournment:**

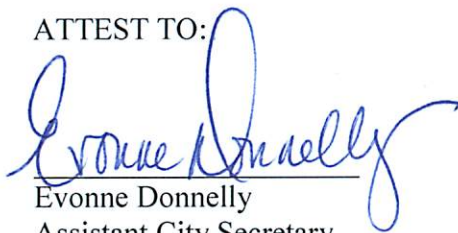
**Motion** made to adjourn meeting at 8:13 pm:

Motion: Newman

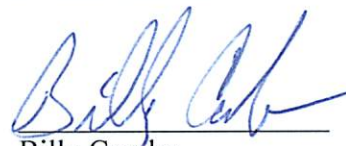
Second: Walker

Approved: 5-0

ATTEST TO:

  
Evonne Donnelly  
Assistant City Secretary

APPROVED BY:

  
Billy Combs  
Mayor