

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

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, **September 24, 2013** at the Beach City Community Building. Those present were:

**MAYOR:** Billy Combs  
**MAYOR PRO TEM:** Jackey Lasater  
**ALDERMEN:** Doug Walker; Dana Colquitt; Ray Smith  
**Absent:** Paul Newman  
**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 September 24, 2013 at 7:07 pm and offered the prayer. Alderman Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

### **II. Citizens Comments:**

Beach City Volunteer Fire Chief, Robert Campise informed Council that they are pushing hard for volunteers. Chief Campise stated that the BCVFD is down to ten members, which is a very lean number. The BCVFD sent out an e-mail blast and is hoping to recruit at least five to ten new members. Alderman Lasater will post the BCVFD help wanted letter to the City's website.

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

Commissioner Senac was unable to attend the meeting but did update Mayor Combs on the County's current events. Chambers County Commissioners Court did adopt the 2014 Budget and passed the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The County employees will receive an across the board three percent raise. Chambers County tax rates will increase from the effective rate of \$.049 cents to \$.052 cents, per one hundred dollars. HPP held their public hearing with TCEQ on September 19th.

Royal Purple Raceway is reportedly in danger of losing their NHRA Sanction; allegedly due to the dust blowing onto the race track from HPP's rock crushing operation.

Lastly, there is a strong possibility that Chambers County will replace the communications tower behind the BCVFD with a new, taller tower. Chambers and Harris Counties, along with the City of Baytown are working together to erect a tower approximately 250-300 feet tall. Our current tower is approximately 160 feet tall. The City of Baytown and Harris County will fund the erection of the tower. The City of Baytown owns the equipment and will move it to the new tower. The new tower would greatly increase the First Responders communication capabilities, and hopefully our internet reception.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from Regular Called Meeting of August 27, 2013.**

**Motion to approve minutes:**

**Motion:** Walker                      **Second:** Lasater                      **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**

Mayor Combs informed Council that he has not had time to review the financials. There was an updated Expenditures on the table for Council.

Secretary Donnelly included three payments from CenterPoint for the fiscal year to date reports; which showed a larger than normal income for two months. Upon reviewing QuickBooks it showed deposits for July 1st, August 1st and August 30th.

**Motion to accept the financials as stated:**

**Motion:** Walker                      **Second:** Smith                      **Approved:** 4-0

**VI. Discussion and possible action on the appointment of the City's Representative and Alternate to the H-GAC's 2014 General Assembly.**

Alderman Walker offered to represent Beach City as the H-GAC's liaison, with the stipulation that each year it rotates down the line to the next Alderman.

**Motion to nominate and appoint Alderman Walker as the 2014 H-GAC General Assembly liaison, with Alderman Newman as the Alternate.**

**Motion: Smith                      Second: Lasater                      Approved: 4-0**

**VII. Executive Session Authorized by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government code:**

**a) Section 551.071, Consult with Attorney concerning contemplation of legal action with Aqua Texas:**

**Recess of Regular Meeting: 7:46pm**

**Regular Meeting reconvened: 8:22pm**

**VIII. Discussion and possible action on a water utility rate increase for customers within the corporate limits of Beach City filed by Aqua Texas.**

Mayor Combs reviewed the request for a rate tariff increase that was received from Aqua Texas on September 09, 2013.

**Motion to authorize Mayor Combs to consult with an outside attorney for possible legal action with Aqua Texas.**

**Motion: Walker                      Second: Lasater                      Approved: 4-0**

**IX. Consider and approve ordinance suspending Aqua Texas' rate increase.**

**Motion to pass the ordinance.**

**Motion: Lasater                      Second: Walker                      Approved: 4-0**

**X. Consider and approve ordinance cancelling the November 5, 2013 City Election due to lack of opposition for positions and issues for referendum.**

**Motion to approve ordinance cancelling the City election.**

**Motion: Walker                      Second: Colquitt                      Approved: 4-0**

**XI. Consider and approve ordinance setting the terms of an agreement with The Natural Gas Company.**

**Motion to approve ordinance agreeing to the terms set with The Natural Gas Company modifying the franchise agreement.**

**Motion: Walker                      Second: Lasater                      Approved: 4-0**

## **XII. Update from sign committee.**

Alderman Colquitt reminded Mayor Combs that she and Alderman Smith are not the sign committee; they are survey committee. Alderman Lasater stated that he is not opposed to a sign in front of the Community Building, he would like to see a sign there. Alderman Lasater does not want the City to spend ten thousand dollars on a digital sign. Alderman Colquitt replied that when she first brought the idea of a sign to Council, someone else mentioned a digital sign. She was speaking of a basic sign. Mayor Combs stated that he was the one who mentioned the possibility of a digital sign. Alderman Colquitt reminded Council that obtaining sponsorship for a digital sign has been mentioned in recent meetings. Alderman Smith weighed in on the subject with the suggestion of various packages being presented to Council with specs, purchase cost and maintenance cost of different signs for Council to review. All of the Aldermen were in agreement with Alderman Smith's suggestion.

## **XIII. Update from committee for Memorial for SPC. Grace.**

Alderman Walker, Alderman Lasater, Mayor Combs and Commissioner Senac met prior to the Council Meeting with Chris Navarre to discuss four topics of concern for the memorial. First: How do we provide for future growth? Second: How do we keep the cost down? Third: Is it in good taste? Fourth: Will it be low maintenance? Alderman Walker and the committee came up with a plan, that would include the current memorial for PFC Wesley Riggs. The new memorial would make a semi-circle around the flag pole with plaques honoring our fallen heroes, set in granite. Also, Mayor Combs will invite Daniel Riggs to meet with Alderman Smith and himself to inquire what Mr. Riggs would like to do for his son's memorial. The City will be happy to leave the existing memorial as is and build the new memorial around it, or incorporate it with a new monument. The committee will meet again in a few weeks after gathering the costs for the granite, etc.

**XIV. Hear report and updates from the Mayor:**

None

**XV. Council Member Comments:**

Alderman Walker asked Mayor Combs if he is aware that Alderman Newman has missed two meetings and that if he misses three in a row it could result in him losing his seat as an Alderman? Alderman Walker went through a similar situation many years ago and wanted to make Alderman Newman aware of this possibility.

Attorney Jackson read aloud the Government Code regarding this matter and it states: Unexcused absences are punishable by a \$500.00 fine for each Council meeting missed. If an Alderman is absent for three consecutive regular meetings without first obtaining a leave of absence at a regular meeting or having a valid excuse such as sickness, then the Alderman's current office shall be vacated.

Alderman Lasater asked the Council their thoughts on the City of Beach City starting an Annual Memorial Day Celebration. It would be a way for the community to come together in a patriotic setting.

Alderman Smith suggested this idea be added to the 2013 City Survey. Mayor Combs suggested that Alderman Lasater put together some ideas and present them to Council. Alderman Colquitt offered to assist Alderman Lasater in gathering the information for the Memorial Day Celebration.

Alderman Colquitt has a friend that has offered to donate an emergency voice system if the Council is interested. This system can be programmed with the Beach City residents phone numbers and it will call them in the event of an emergency.

**XVI. Adjournment:**

**Motion** made to adjourn at 9:09pm:

**Motion:** Smith

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approved:** 4-0

ATTEST TO:



**City Secretary**  
Evonne Donnelly

APPROVED BY:



**Mayor**  
Billy Combs