

BEACH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting April 26, 2011 at the Beach City Community Building. Those present were:

MAYOR: Billy Combs
MAYOR Pro Tem: Jackey Lasater
ALDERMAN: Rita Standridge Vaughn Bercaw Douglas Walker
 Ray Smith

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:03 April 26, 2011. The Mayor offered the Prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag. Alderman Standridge lead the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

I. Citizen Comments.

No Comments.

II. Review and consider approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of March 22nd, 2011.

Minutes reviewed prior to the Meeting by Council.

MOTION made for approval of the Minutes with one minor change in Item I. Stayton Sartor does not live in Barbers Hill, he lives in Beach City.

MOTION: Standridge SECONDED: Walker APPROVED: 5 – 0

III. Financial Consent Agenda:

A. Review and approve of the Financial Statements for month ending March 31st, 2011.

Mayor Combs reported on the Payroll Taxes. He reported that Alderman Walker had been asking often about the Payroll Taxes. Last month, at Alderman Lasater's request, he went back and looked at the payroll taxes and adjusted them. If you look at the Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual and the Profit & Loss Prev. Year Comparison you will see that year to date we have actually spent \$607.61 in Taxes. Total City Assets are \$606,626.64.

B. Receive and review Investment rate/security update.

Mayor Combs stated that we have several CD's maturing in July. He asked Alderman Standridge if she would help him and she replied that she would.

C. Review and approve Revenues and Expenditures for current month.

The Expenditure Authorization was reviewed prior to the meeting. Mayor Combs explained the new format for the Expenditure Authorization.

MOTION made to approve the Financial Consent Agenda.

MOTION: Walker SECONDED: Lasater APPROVED: 5 – 0

IV. Hear comment from Citizen Larry Stratmann concerning Beach City VFD.

April 26th, 2011

Mr. Stratmann was not present. He told Margaret that he was appreciative of the Fire Department's effort in putting out the fire at his house. He wanted to publically thank them for their efforts.

V. Hear from Jay Hammes concerning the Great American Celebration, participation.

Ms. Hammes gave a report on the progress of the Celebration. She was pleased how the renting of the booths was coming along. She is trying to get the final flyer of mass - advertisement out by June 1st and asked Council, when they receive it, to scan it to everyone they know. She stated that this is not just the Fire Department and their usual fund raising. Her thing is to get the whole community together. Mayor Combs asked how many booths she had rented out. She said she has confirmation on 23 and waiting on confirmation on 15 more. It was the consensus of Council that they have a table at the Great American Celebration.

Jay also needed to discuss the Fire Departments Santa on the Bay for the resident of Beach City is getting more difficult every year. Engine 82 is literally falling apart and she is up for sale. They don't have the number of people that it takes to do that event. What they would like to do, and have been discussing the last couple of years, is to do a Parade. Parade down Hwy. FM 2354 one night.

VI. Hear and consider request from citizen for additional signage on McCollum Park Road.

Mr. Warren Lisenby, a Walker Subdivision Resident, stated that someone went through his wooden fence and it's lucky no one was hurt. There is lots of traffic out there and unlawful vehicles. He would like to see Beach City control the situation as much as possible. He would like to see some stop signs be put up to notify the people that are illegally operating this equipment. He stated that his neighbor James D. Morton did some intensive research in regard to State laws. Mr. Lisenby said he had talked to Judge Cryer.

Mr. James D. Morton said he didn't believe signs, notifications or anything else was going to do any good. He thinks the only thing that will do any good is pressure on the Sheriffs' Department to be able to fine these people. People need to know that there are laws out here. He has noticed a number of permanent signs still on the right-of-way. Mr. Martin has talked to a lot of Police Officers and one of them informed him that the type of government that Beach City has, the person that is in charge of Law Enforcement is the Mayor. This means the Mayor is responsible for it; if it's not taken care of, if he understands it correctly. So he would like for the Mayor to take care of the law enforcement problem. Commissioner Senac reminded Council that for many years Beach City had a City Marshal who was very effective at handling this type of issue. In the Community the people knew him and he would go talk to families and encourage them to teach their children to follow the law. He went on to say that Council might want to think about the reinstating of the Marshal Position out here, even if Part-time, it would be a great expenditure. Mayor Combs asked Mr. Lisenby if he was going to withdraw his request and he answered he was. The Mayor said he appreciated that and he would see what he could do about getting some reinforcement out here.

VII. Hear and consider request from citizen to abandon a City easement.

Mr. Marty Rolin, a resident, stated that he has a house in the City and he had it surveyed four years ago and he found out that there was a 50 foot wide road on this property. There's a house, garage, Septic System and water well on this road South of this by 19 feet adjacent to his pavement. He went on to say several years ago he talked to the prior Mayor and he informed him that initially, prior to Beach City becoming a City all of the County road easements became City Easements. He hired a Lawyer and found out that he could do an abandonment if he could get the neighbor to sign off on it. He couldn't get the neighbor to sign off on it unless he pays all of the expenses and he's not going to do that. He offered him the property but he still wants him to pay all of the expensive and he is not going to do that. He's asking the City to abandon the property with his signature. The neighbor suggested that they get a title search which he did. Mayor Combs said he don't think the City had an easement on that; he thinks it was originally transferred back to Mr. Rolins as a quick claim deed.

VIII. Update and possible action on T&I Taylor's Appeal, TCEQ ruling, and Pending Sale.

Mayor stated that on July 22nd, 2010 the City officially received letters from T&ITaylor that they would be increasing their rates and on July 29th, 2010 and within that request they stated that the effective date would be August 1st. We read that and acted very rapidly to suspend rates by the second date, on July 29th, 2010. We suspended the rate increase for 90 days from the second date. At that time, for some reason, we were thinking that the effective date would be September 22, 2010 which would have been 60 days after we received the letter. On December 21st 2110 we passed an ordinance denying the rate increase. T&I Taylor immediately appealed that decision to TCEQ. Our Attorney has sent them a letter and we have not received an answer so the Mayor called them and they have still not answered them.

IX. Consider and possible action on PUC Consumer Price Index Adjustment

After discussion, no action was taken.

X. Consider and approve CenterPoint Energy's Annual Franchise Payment Calculation and Agreement.

Mayor Combs stated that this is the annual contract agreement with CenterPoint in the amount of \$6,523,59 increase over last year. That would be \$542.00 more a month which would bring it up to \$6,284.07 Per Month.

MOTION made to accept the calculation provided by CenterPoint Energy's Annual Franchise Payment Calculation and Agreement.

MOTION: Rita Standridge SECONDED: Walker APPROVED: 5 – 0

XI. Council Updates; From the Mayor and County Commissioner.

The Mayor stated that he called CenterPoint to replace a light out and a broken pole and they will be out to repair them.

April 26th, 2011

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The Mayor got a letter from Verizon saying that they have spoke to a resident south of the city and plan to put a tower on their land that service will reach about 6 miles.


XII. Council Member Comments.

The Mayor recognized Alderman Rita Standridge for her 12 year tenure on the City of Beach City Council. Alderman Standridge's last meeting will be May 24, 2011 and the Council thanked her for all of her hard work and how much she will be missed.

XIII. Adjourn


The Mayor adjourned at 7:55 P.M. on April 26th, 2011.

ATTEST TO:



Margaret Gainer
City Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Billy Combs
Mayor