

BEACH CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting December 21st, 2010 at the Beach City Community Building. Those present were:

MAYOR: Billy Combs

MAYOR PRO TEM: Jackey Lasater

ALDERMAN: Ray Smith

Vaughn Bercaw

Douglas Walker

Rita Standridge – Absent

CITY ATTORNEY: Daniel Jackson

CITY SECRETARY: Margaret Gainer

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. Tuesday December 21st, 2010. He offered prayer. Alderman Walker led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas State flag.

I. Citizen Comments.

No citizen's comments.

II. Review and consider approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of November 23rd, 2010.

Minutes reviewed by Council prior to the Meeting.

MOTION made to accept the minutes as presented.

MOTION: Walker

SECONDED: Smith

APPROVED: 4 - 0

III. Financial Consent Agenda;

A. Review and approve of the Financial Statements for month ending November 30, 2010

B. Receive and review Investment rate/security update

C. Review and approve Revenues and Expenditures for current Month

The Financial Consent Agenda was reviewed prior to the meeting.

MOTION made to accept the Financials as stated.

MOTION: Walker

SECONDED: Bercaw

APPROVED: 4-0

IV. Review and update Beach City's Public Funds Investment Policy.

The Mayor explained that the copy of the Public Funds Investment Policy that was sent to Council contained errors due to the laser printer. He went on to say that according to policy, this is supposed to be reviewed at least once a year. Mayor Combs stated that when he and Alderman Walker were discussing some of the items, he brought to his attention that, in his personal opinion the City's unwritten policy, keeping a percentage of our funds in the operating account, doesn't make sense because it should be based on the number of months; a timeframe of operating accounts. Every entity he has been in kept a

certain time period, that they felt comfortable with, in a liquid account that they could get access to. Investing in CD's basically is 100% liquid, because if we have to pull them out we would only be losing that interest that we would have earned for that period. From a logical reason, he likes a time period more than a percentage, he would say "lets keep 6 months operating capital, 50% of our budget liquid at all times".

MOTION made to change the policy to include 6 months of operating capital for our expenses in reserve.

MOTION: Walker

SECONDED: Bercaw

Further discussion. Alderman Lasater was concerned with the wording. He asked if this 15% was an unwritten policy. The Mayor said he guessed so. Alderman Lasater then asked if we open up a can of worms if we dip below that number and we have to scramble, move some money around. Alderman Lasater asked City Attorney Jackson if we make that a written policy, are we going to scrambling around every month. Attorney Jackson said it depends on how the policy is written. If you make it a firm rule that "there must be", then there must be. He went on to say you should put some parameters around that. As an example he said "change the policy to include, make best effort to maintaining the balance of 6 months operating capital.

Amendment to the Motion. Motion made to amend the motion to read: Change the policy to include make best effort to maintaining the balance of 3 months operating capital... This will be included in Paragraph #2 under Liquidity

Motion: Walker

Seconded: Bercaw.

APPROVED: 4 - 0

V. Update and possible action on CenterPoint franchise payment calculation audit.

Nothing to report.

VI. Update and possible action on audit for all Beach City franchise accounts.

The Mayor has not heard from Comcast at this time. Nothing to report.

VII. Hear and discuss concerns of citizens for traffic and traffic control on McCollum Park Road.

Mayor Combs moved this item up to the second item. Mayor Combs stated that at last months meeting there were several people that spoke in concern for stop signs, four wheelers and golf carts driven by children and people not obeying the traffic laws on McCollum Park Road. There were residents from the McCollum Park area and those from the Barrow Ranch area and they spoke of the same problems that they reported at last months Meeting. The consensus was people are still speeding, racing on the narrow street and some are still running the stop signs, the mail boxes are too close to the road, children riding four wheelers and the fear of more stop signs placed on McCollum Park Road. Mayor Combs addressed one rumor that was heard last month that Council could not comment on. "There has never been any conversation what so ever for any additional stop signs on McCollum Park Road. There has been no

discussion beyond these two that we put in". He went on to say that he has spoken to the Sheriff and the County Commissioner and asked them to beef up the patrols. "They said they have already started that ball rolling". After a couple more statements, Mayor Combs shut the public comments down. He asked if Council had any questions. Alderman Lasater said he had some comments. He went on to say what we have here are some reasonable people, he's listened to them talking. They have a problem about speed limits. He doesn't think its speed limits because he doesn't believe the guys living out here are the ones who are speeding. "It doesn't take too many rotten apples to spoil the whole barrel. We may have just a hand full of people causing the problem". He said he hates to see the animosity between the two groups that live next to one another. "This is a growing area and it is going to continue to grow and if we saved one child's life with those stop signs it was worth it". He said he would hope that the Sheriff's Department would come out and start monitoring those stop signs and the speeders. Alderman Smith said, "very well said Jackey". Alderman Bercaw said he thinks it is important, (the stop signs) but he don't think it is going to stop it because when that park opens up there's going to be more traffic. We need enforcement and he thinks we only have two deputies on this side of town. That's a lot of area to cover. Alderman Walker said he agrees with everything that the others have said. He thinks enforcement is the key. But the animosity between the groups, he encourages that they have a neighborhood association and try to come up with a unified approach, where everyone is on the same page. Mayor Combs assured everyone he would do everything he can to get increased police patrol on McCollum Park Road.

VIII. Consider and adopt Ordinance #2010-7 denying T&I Taylor's Rate Increase Request.

Alderman Lasater stated that the Committee recommends that we deny T&I Taylor's rate request. He also went on to say that we put a lot of work into this and have consulted a few Lawyers. He said that the Committee wished that we could have sat down with figures that would benefit both parties but unfortunately T&I Taylor did not show up for of the hearing or cooperate with Council to supply needed information and documentation. So, the Committee recommends Council deny the rate request. Alderman Smith read the Ordinance (#2010-7) out loud to the public and the Council Members.

MOTION made to accept Ordinance #2010-7 as read.

MOTION: Lasater

SECONDED: Walker

APPROVED: 4-0

IX. Set priorities for H-GAC Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Mayor said that a few years ago the City was asked to set some priorities for Mitigation Action and what this really is, is a wish list for H-GAC to submit. They are getting some funding for various projects and want the City to add to their wish list. They have some good guidelines, things that you could or could not apply for. The Mayor thinks one possible project could be the Cedar Gully Bridge. "TxDot put the bridge in about 2 feet to low and it had about 2 feet of water over it during Hurricane Ike". He went on to say that if this bridge is under water the South end of Beach City would not be able to get out of the

City. The Mayor also mentioned drainage problems. Some of the other items the Council listed are a couple of back-up generators, a dome building that will stand up to 200 mph winds for people that cannot evacuate, ice machines, etc. Mayor Combs asked the Council if they have any other suggestions to E-mail them to him and he will add them to the list.

X. Discussion and possible action on City's Phone and Fax Service.

The Mayor stated that the City is paying Vonage about \$66.00 a month, while Internet America has a new program with the same service for \$20.00 per month which he has been using for about a month now. He also stated that Internet America has a Fax service for \$7.00 per month. The Mayor proposed the city cancel the Vonage 2-line business system and get Internet Americas Phone System and their computer fax service. This would be about a \$27.00 bill instead of \$66.00 bill from Vonage.

MOTION so moved.

MOTION: Smith

SECONDED: Walker

APPROVED: 4-0

XI. Discussion and possible action on meeting date for January 2011.

The City Council Meeting date will be changed due to the WCCCC Award Banquet. The City Secretary will let the Mayor and Council know if the building is available for January 18th, 2011 @ 6:00 P.M. instead of January 25th, 2011 @ 7:00 P.M.

XII. Discussion and possible action on nominate for Beach City Volunteer of the year.

The Mayor asked for nominees for this year's Beach City Volunteer of the year. Alderman Lasater suggested Jay Hammes and Alderman Smith suggested Jackie Lasater. Everyone agreed that both have done so much for the City of Beach City.

The Council voted that Jay Hammes be the nominee for this year.

XIII. Consider renewal of Interlocal Agreements with Chambers County.

MOTION to renew Interlocal Agreements with Chambers County.

MOTION: Walker

SECONDED: Lasater

APPROVED: 4-0

XIV. Council Updates;

A. SECO Grant- Work is done, invoices are in and we are waiting on payment.

B. CenterPoint Energy Rate Increase Request- The Mayor received a letter from CenterPoint and they are saying that they encourage all Cities to attend a January 20, 2011 open meeting to express our concerns. CenterPoint appealed the denial that Beach City presented, and now it is going before the PUC in the appeal hearing.

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Mayor Combs and Alderman Lasater will attend this meeting in Austin.

- C. **Internet America Service Upgrades**-The Mayor said that the service is up and running good. He is getting great speed on his computer and there are other citizens in the City that are using this. Internet America is going to put a new tower up at the Vineyard and it is going to be taller than the one at the Fire Department. Verizon is looking for a site in January 2011 in this area for the tower to be online in the first quarter of January 2012.

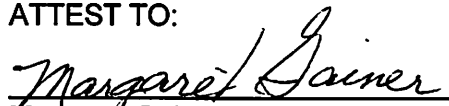
XV. Council Member Comments.

Alderman Bercaw has been looking at digital recorders for the City Secretary to use instead of the recorder/cassette machine the City has been using for years. He found one that will record for up to 5 hours, you hook the device up to the computer and it downloads the recording into the computer. The cost is \$63.00. The Mayor and Council agreed that we need to be updated and will purchase this.

XVI. Adjourn

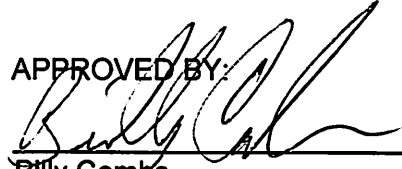
MOTION made to adjourn the Meeting at 8:35 P.M on December 21st, 2011.
MOTION: Lasater SECONDED: Bercaw APPROVED: 4-0

ATTEST TO:



Margaret Gainer
City Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Billy Combs
Mayor