

February 22, 2011

BEACH CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting February 22nd, 2011 at the Beach City Community Building. Those present were:

MAYOR: Billy Combs

MAYOR PROTEM: Jackey Lasater

ALDERMAN: Rita Standridge

Vaughn Bercaw

Ray Smith

Douglas Walker

CITY ATTORNEY: Daniel Jackson

CITY SECRETARY: Margaret Gainer

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M. February 22nd, 2011. He offered prayer. One of the Boy Scouts lead the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag.

I. Citizen Comments.

The Mayor welcomed the Boy Scouts and their leaders from our area. He wished them well on this merit badge and all of the others.
No other comments.

II. Review and consider approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of January 19th 2011 and Special meeting of January 25th 2011.

Minutes reviewed prior to the meeting.

MOTION made to accept the regular minutes of January 19th, 2011 and Special meeting minutes of January 25, 2011 as presented.

MOTION: Walker

SECONDED: Lasater

APPROVED: 3 - 0

III. Financial Consent Agenda;

A. Review and approve of the Financial Statements for month ending January 31st, 2010. Mayor Combs reported on the Profit & Loss Prev. Year Comparison July 2010 through January 2011 saying total income is down about 2% from where we were last year and total expenses are down about 1%. We are about 1% under budget. Total assets are \$601,656.89.

B. Receive and review Investment rate/security update.

Mayor Combs stated that we did get our two CDs switched over, actually we did not get the one at Barbers Hill Bank until February 1st, 2011 so it does not reflect it on the balance sheet. Our next CD matures on July 6th, 2011 at State Farm Bank. Alderman Standridge reported that she went to Barbers Hill Bank to sign the new CD. She reported that they gave her a copy of the CD and a copy of the Certificate for Safe Keeping that she will turn in to the City Office.

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

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The proposed Revenues and Expenditures were reviewed prior to the Meeting.

MOTION made to accept the Financial Statements, the Investment rate/security update and Revenues and Proposed Expenditures as shown.

MOTION: Douglas Walker SECONDED: Standridge APPROVED: 4-0

IV. Approve appointment of Wesley Richey as the local Rabies Control Authority for the city of Beach City

Mayor Combs read a letter from Sheriff Joe LaRive, Chambers County Sheriff. Sheriff LaRive sent a form to be signed appointing Wesley Richey as the local Rabies Control Authority for the City of Beach City, Texas.

MOTION made to appoint Wesley Richey as the local Rabies Control Authority for the City of Beach City, Texas.

MOTION: Smith SECONDED: Lasater APPROVED: 4 – 0

V. Update and possible action on CenterPoint franchise audit.

Alderman Walker handed out worksheets explaining the Beach City Power Usage Analysis to Council. He then went on to say that he didn't know how many Council members had seen all of the information that came in from Center Point that Alderman Lasater graciously compiled and assorted by the commuter. Alderman Walker and Alderman Lasater visited most sites and what they did not visit together, Alderman Lasater visited. He went on to say this is an analysis now trying to explain why we are not where we thought we ought to be from an electrical usage from a Beach City standpoint. Alderman Walker made a very detailed report. The Beach City Power Usage Analysis, January , 2011 will be made a part of these minutes.

VI. Update and possible action on T & I Taylor Appeal.

Mayor Combs said T & I Taylor had a hearing date set with TCEQ to hear their rate request for all of the customers they have outside the Corporate City Limits of Beach City. As a result of that, TCEQ approved their rate request. He went on to say T & I Taylor withdrew their sewer rate increase outside the City of Beach City because all of the sewer customers are inside the City of Beach City. Therefore the sewer rate has not been heard yet. A precedent has been set for the water but not the sewer. The Mayor asked TCEQ why T & I Taylor was automatically given everything they ask for. The answer was because no one protested the rate increase; the protest was for the quality of service they had received. The City of Beach City protested the rates. The City has some options, just sit back and see what happens, go listen and talk a little bit or we could get involved and try to fight it. We do not have a budget for the latter. He asked for Council's input. After a discussion it was the consensus of Council to have someone on Council help the residents of Bayridge and The Oaks at Houston Point. They need to get organized and if possible hire an Attorney. They should know that T&I Taylor has appealed this and TCEQ will hold a hearing in Austin, but no date has been set. Alderman Bercaw and Standridge will head up this committee. Let them know that the City is here to help them. We don't want to fight it for them but wherever we can we want to support them, help them get organized.

VII. Council Update:

A. SECO Grant

All work completed.

B. CenterPoint Energy Rate Increase Request

Mayor Combs stated that CenterPoint Energy hearing will be in 2011.

CenterPoint Energy has applied for a 30+% rate increase that will increase your power bill at your home 5% to 8%. This includes the whole area. The City has joined the Houston Coalition to fight this.

C. Internet America Service Upgrades

Mayor Combs is still working with them almost daily. The power pole that they were

going to put next door at the Winery will be too tall and too close to the Air Port. They are looking for an alternate site.

D. Hwy 99 & Fisher Road Intersection

With the help of our new Commissioner and County Engineer Don Brandon the funding has now been approved and will probably be starting construction by September of 2011. The Mayor said he has been told that we are going to get something done at the sharp turn off on Fisher Road. At first it may not be more than Stop Signs. He encouraged everyone to keep pushing that button.

E. Comcast Cable

No new updates.

F. McCollum Park

Mayor Combs said that the construction had slowed and he does not know when the completion date is. Commissioner Senac has been working on this and is putting an ad hoc Committee together and wanted to have Alderman Smith and Alderman Lasater to be on it.

G. Block Grant Improvement to Beach City Community Building

The County had a Block Grant approved for a 200 KW Generator installed that will power the Fire Department. Technically because the City occupies this building they cannot power this building off that generator. When the County installs that generator they are going to make provisions so that later this building can be added to it. The plan called for a shower house and a door connecting to this building. Because of underfunding reasons and maintenance problems that has been scratched. Those funds will be used for the generator that is near, and with the spare capacity that it has, they will be able to add different size connectors so that in the event of a disaster different things can be plugged into it.

VII. Council Member Comments.

1. Alderman Smith asked each scout to stand up and give his name, school and where he lives. Mayor Combs thanked the scouts for coming.
2. Alderman Standridge said on the Expenditure Authorization there was a Vontage and Internet America charge. She asked if that is the last Vontage Charge. Mayor Combs said that was a bank deduction and it should not have been deducted. He will call them and get it straightened out.
3. Ms. Gainer announced that March 14, 2011 is the last day to file an application for a place on the May 19th, 2011 City Election Ballot.

IX. Adjourn

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MOTION made to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. Tuesday January 22, 2011.
SECONDED:
APPROVED: 5 - 0

ATTEST TO:

Margaret Gainer
City Secretary



Billy Combs
Mayor

