

City of Beach City – City Council Meeting Minutes

The City Council of the City of Beach City, Texas met in a **Regular Session** on **January 23, 2018** at the Beach City Community Building, 12723 FM 2354 Beach City, TX. 77523

Members Present: Mayor Billy Combs (presiding), Mayor Pro Tem Jackey Lasater, Alderman Ray Smith, Alderman Dana Colquitt, Alderman Doug Walker and Alderman Paul Newman

Staff Present: City Secretary Evonne Donnelly, Assistant Secretary Marge Bercaw

Legal Counsel Present: City Attorney Daniel Jackson

1. Call to order and announcement of quorum

On Tuesday, January 23, 2018 Mayor Combs called the Regular Session Meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Combs offered prayer. Alderman Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

3. Public Comments (Limited to five minutes per person)

None

4. Hear report and update from Chambers County Commissioner, Rusty Senac

Commissioner Senac congratulated Pat McDonald on his third Beach City Volunteer of the Year award.

The County voted to fund the EMS groups within Chambers County. Trinity Bay EMS will receive \$393,000.

The mosquito plane was flooded during Hurricane Harvey and had to be scrapped. Bids are being sought for a new and used airplane. The plane could cost \$850,000.

TxDOT held a special stakeholders meeting on Friday. They are rethinking what they will do with I-10 at FM 3180 / Eagle Drive and FM 1409. The plans were to remove the bridge over I-10 and take the six lanes that are I-10 and go over the top of FM 3180 / Eagle Drive. Which would result in FM 3180 / Eagle Drive being an at-grade thoroughfare. This process was originally thought to be 3-4 months and construction would happen in the summertime. While construction is pending, all north bound traffic would have to take the feeder road and head east to FM 565 then U-turn back up onto the west side of the feeder road and exit onto Eagle Drive, in that manner.

After an additional analysis, the actual construction time is thought to be more like 6-9 months. FM 1409 is a state road, that Chambers County is building/expanding, and its construction timing is too closely aligned with the previously mentioned TxDOT I-10 construction. TxDOT is

rethinking whether or not they will expand FM 3180 over I-10 or, go ahead with the at-grade crossing. TxDOT is now saying if they leave the construction like it is now, then the County would need to change their construction drawings for FM 1409, that have already gone to bid, to exclude the overpass and have FM 1409 at-grade with I-10 six lanes going over the new FM 1409 expansion. Traffic and mobility would be a huge hurdle to overcome with these two projects happening at the same time. Another idea is to build two bridges at FM 3180 on either side of the current overpass. The new bridges (if approved) would be reconstructed to a vertical clearance of 18'6, which is the new clearance standard for TxDOT. There are no decisions that have been made on this matter, as of today.

The steel mill, JSW Steel (aka Jindal Steel or Jindal), is looking at a major expansion which could mean an additional five-hundred jobs.

Alfred Talke, a logistics and transportation company, is considering building their US headquarters in Mont Belvieu on Langston Road. This would mean an immediate one-hundred and thirty-five employees, with an additional one-hundred contract positions.

5. Hear report and update from Beach City Volunteer Fire Department (BCVFD)

Chief McDonald told Council the department is concentrating on classroom work, so the VFD can test for their firefighter's certification. There is a written test and a skills test required for this certification. Having the members certified will improve the ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating for the department.

The Chief will speak to TGS (Trans Global Solutions) regarding the mutual aid agreement.

Mayor Combs added that the Chambers County Commissioners Court just approved funding for the BCVFD, with an additional \$20,000 increase from previous years. The new funding amount for the BCVFD is \$53,800.

6. Approval of Minutes for Special Called Meeting of December 19th, 2017

Motion to approve

Motion: Walker

Second: Lasater

Approved: 5-0

7. Financial Consent Agenda (All financial consent agenda items are considered routine by Council and will be enacted by one motion. A Councilmember may request an item to be removed and considered separately.)

(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

This is the largest Expenditures to be approved by Council in Mayor Combs time here. There are many onetime occurrence items hitting at the same time. The conference table is due to Harvey and the remodeling of the City office. The \$5,400 fee for contracting with the Chambers County Clerk for our November Elections is way off the budgeted amount of \$1,800. Tony's Lock & Key charged \$1,500 for the new locks, deadbolts and the buzzer system to the main office door. Also, the IRS 941 quarterly taxes are due this month.

There is a CD maturing February 7th.

Motion to approve

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

Discussion: As far as the CD goes, Alderman Newman asked if anything has changed rate wise in the last two months and are we looking to stagger these CD's in duration. Mayor Combs believes the rates are close to the same. Capital Bank has been giving the best rates in the banking industry.

The good Fire Chief has been assisting with the assembly of the new bookshelves and Mayor Combs would like to see him get paid for his time, since we would have to hire someone to do it for the City.

8. Discuss and consider amendment to the City's Public Funds Investment Policy (PFIP)

During the audit Mr. Garcia with SGS (Start, Garcia & Stanley) noted that the City's Investment Policy states that the financial overseers will attend a mandatory PFIA (Public Funds Investment Act) course every two years. However, Attorney Jackson quoted a piece of the investment code that states, "Unless investments are solely based on CD's, which are exempt under TX. law."

The City's investments are based on CD's, so Mr. Garcia suggested that the City's PFIP should reflect the City's practice. Mayor Combs would like to amend page three, second paragraph to reflect Attorney Jackson's verbiage quoted above.

Motion to approve changing the investment policy per the language written by Danny

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

9. Consider and approve renewing the following Interlocal Agreements with Chambers County: Food, Nuisance, Flood Plain, and On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) for 2018

Motion to approve

Motion: Newman

Second: Walker

Approved: 5-0

Discussion: Alderman Walker asked if we have always paid for these agreements. The answer is yes: Nuisance, and the fee changed last year from \$30 to \$40; OSSF is \$150 and if ever needed there can be a fee for Food, per the interlocal agreement.

10. Consider and approve aerial applications for purpose of Mosquito Control within the corporate limits of Beach City

Motion to approve

Motion: Smith

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

11. Discussion and possible action on the 18-wheeler issue at McKinney RD. and FM 2354

GPS and various mapping systems (i.e. map apps on iPhone, Android, etc.) routes the drivers onto FM 2354 and McKinney in Beach City instead of FM 1405 and McKinney in the industrial district. Mayor Combs spoke with Omar DeLeon the Area Engineer with TxDOT and he stated that they have had luck in the past in getting the mapping systems updated and changed. Mayor Combs is hopping to meet with TGS, TxDOT and the Commissioner Senac in the near future. Also, adding 'No Big Trucks' type signs to McKinney, Morrison and Armer Streets in Beach City could help deter the 18-wheelers from turning onto these streets. Chambers County Road & Bridge will order the signs and put them up for us, but the City will have to pay for these signs. Mayor Combs hopes that TGS will widen the area in front of this unused entrance to 5200 E. McKinney at FM 2354 this would make easier for the big rigs to turn around. If TGS would add a

large sign in English and Spanish telling the truckers how to get around to FM 1405 and McKinney, this should make a big difference for all involved.
Commissioner Senac asked Mayor Combs to speak to John Hritz at JSW Steel who may be able to help with this matter.

Motion to approve the signs from Chambers County

Motion: Walker

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

12. Hear and consider request from Beach City resident, Brice Fuselier, to purchase an Ocean Drive easement from the City

There are aerial photographs for Council's review of the property in question.

The Ocean Drive property (take Hurst Street from FM 2354) runs westward into an old garage and beyond that is runs into Crawley Lane. The property on the west side of the easement is owned by Kinder Morgan. Attorney Jackson stated that whomever is on the opposite side of the City easement in question, must also be offered a chance to purchase the easement.

Alderman Colquitt would like to take a look at this easement and not make a decision at the moment.

This Item has been TABLED until next month's meeting.

13. Consider and approve agreement with the Barbers Hill Lions Club to participate in the patriotic flag program for 2018

Motion to approve

Motion: Smith

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

14. Discuss and consider an ordinance approving the operation of golf carts on roads within the City, where the speed limit is 35 mph (miles per hour) or less

In November 2017 Sherriff Hawthorne asked Council to consider passing an ordinance allowing golf carts on the City's road where the speed limits are 35 mph (miles per hour) or less.

Mayor Combs asked if Council would like our esteemed attorney to draw up an ordinance for Council to review.

Currently, all of the folks who drive these carts up and down the City streets are doing so illegally. This ordinance would free up the Chambers County Sherriff's Office (CCSO) from all of the complaints they receive in and around the Barrow Ranch Subdivision regarding people driving golf carts, etc. in the road.

Alderman Newman asked, how widespread is the illegal use of golf carts currently. Would an ordinance to authorize the use of carts on the City streets, cause more of an issue? Mayor Combs feels that the vast majority of residents wouldn't even be aware of the ordinance.

Alderman Colquitt asked if this would stop the calls to the CCSO.

The consensus of Council is to draft the ordinance for review.

15. Adopt a Resolution of Appreciation for the Beach City 2017 Volunteer of the Year

Mayor Combs read aloud the Resolution of Appreciation 2018-01 in honor of Pat McDonald.

Motion to approve

Motion: Newman

Second: Smith

Approved: 5-0

16. Update and discussion on non-compliance to City ordinances regarding On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF's)

None

17. Report and update from the Mayor

A big thank you to Tom Hitchcock for helping with an area resident who was flooded during Harvey and has been having some issues ever since.

There is a rumor of a railyard going in on Fisher Road and FM 2354 (across from NorthPoint Subdivision), Mayor Combs nor Commissioner Senac are aware of this event taking place. Nor was it mentioned by TGS in November at the Council meeting.

18. Council Comments

None

19. Adjourn

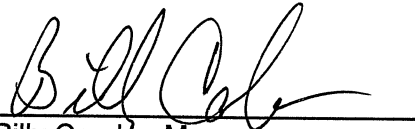
Motion to adjourn at 7:37 P.M.

Motion: Newman

Second: Walker

Approved: 5-0

Minutes Approved: February 27, 2018


Billy Combs, Mayor

Attest:


Evonne Donnelly, City Secretary

