

City of Beach City Regular Called City Council Meeting Minutes

The City Council of the City of Beach City, Texas
met in a Regular Session on **October 24, 2017** at the
Beach City Volunteer Fire Department 12717 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

Legal Counsel Present: City Attorney Daniel Jackson

1. Call to order and announcement of quorum

On Tuesday October 24, 2017 Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Sharon Smith with the Beach City Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) has
been taking steps to ensure they are ready for the upcoming Nov. 7th election. Pat
McDonald will be the election judge for our precinct.

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

The Beach City Community Building is coming along but the tile issue has slowed progress.
Commissioner Court was held today and there were a lot of concerned people regarding the
drainage issues many suffered during Hurricane Harvey in Legends Bay, Anahuac, etc.
Judge Sylvia appointed a large committee to address this matter.
The RWJ drainage project is starting to inch forward using the CBBG funds from Hurricane
Ike. The runway was closed during Hurricane Harvey due to a wash out.

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

The BCVFD has a company that will handle billing for them. The billing will be for car
wrecks, etc. The BCVFD has not billed for their services in many years.
The annual Santa on the Bay will be December 8th & 9th.

6. Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of August 22nd, 2017

Mayor Combs combined Items 6, 7 & 8 together.

Motion to approve

Motion: Smith

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

Discussion: Alderman Walker questioned the August minutes regarding lowering the speed limit on McCollum Park Road. Mayor Combs replied, in July Council did approve lowering the speed limit on McCollum Park Road. The motion was made by Alderman Walker and Seconded by Alderman Colquitt however, that was not on the agenda. The agenda item was for an Ordinance for a city-wide speed limit.

Alderman Walker also questioned the sign ordinance and its approval with the exception of adding the definition of off-site premises. This item is back on the agenda tonight to approve the amendment to the approved Ordinance. Alderman Walker asked how an approved ordinance, etc. can be brought back and amended. Mayor Combs explained that the speed limit ordinance for McCollum Park Road was done in error; it was on the agenda as a city-wide ordinance. Also, Council can approve and amend something at anytime.

7. Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of September 26th, 2017

See Item 6 which combined Items 6, 7 & 8.

8. Discuss and approve amending the July 25th, 2017 minutes

See item 6 which combined Items 6, 7 & 8.

9. 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

In September, Council approved Mayor Combs to renew a CD that matured Monday, October 23rd. Capital Bank offered a 1.50% interest rate for eighteen months; which is almost double the competitor's rates. Mayor Combs has renewed this CD at Capital Bank for the rate and term previously stated.

Motion to approve the financials

Motion: Newman

Second: Walker

Approved: 5-0

10. Consider and approve Interlocal Agreement for Fire and Building Code Enforcement between Chambers County and the City of Beach City

Motion to approve

Motion: Walker

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

Discussion: Alderman Walker asked if this agreement must be renewed annually. Mayor Combs noted that this agreement is continual unless one party opts out. This is presented again due to a minor housekeeping cleanup.

11. Discussion and possible action on TMLIRP (Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool) insurance coverage, deductible amount and replacement of office items from water damage due to Hurricane Harvey on August 27, 2017

The TMLIRP insurance adjuster came to access the damages and we are still waiting on his final assessments.

12. This item was tabled at the September 26, 2017 Regular Called Meeting until the next Council meeting: Consider and adopt an Ordinance establishing city wide speed limits throughout Beach City

In July, Council reviewed this item and voted to set a speed limit only for McCollum Park Road. Mayor Combs feels this is a mistake and if Council does not establish speed limits city wide, then technically and legally, there are no speed limits city wide. Attorney Jackson added there is a defacto speed limit of thirty-miles per hour (mph) when you do not see a speed limit sign on a residential street.

Mayor Combs reviewed the ordinances that Attorney Jackson has composed. The only difference in the ordinances in Items 12 and 13 is, one ordinance ratifies the thirty-mph state speed limit and the other the other ordinance sets a city wide speed limit at twenty-mph. Both of these ordinances change the speed limit to 35 mph on McCollum Park Road.

No Motion.

13. This item was tabled at the September 26, 2017 Regular Called Meeting until the next Council meeting: Consider and adopt an Ordinance lowering the speed limit on McCollum Park Road from the intersection of FM 2354 to the intersection of Bay Wind Court to 35 mph (miles per hour).

Motion to approve

Motion: Walker

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 4-1 Newman opposed

Discussion: Alderman Newman questioned if there is a need for an ordinance that basically reiterates what the state law says.

14. Discuss and consider Council meeting dates for November and December, due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays

The November meeting will remain on the fourth Tuesday, the 28th.

The December meeting will be moved to Monday, Dec. 18th.

15. Discussion and possible action on appointment of the City's Representative and Alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) 2018 General Assembly

Alderman Newman is the appointed nominee and Alderman Walker is the alternate.

16. Discussion on nominations for the 2017 Volunteer of the Year

The current Volunteer of the Year (VOTY) is Jay Eshbach. Get ready to nominate someone for the VOTY.

17. Discussion and possible action on City participation in the West Chambers County Chambers of Commerce Awards Banquet in January

Mayor Combs discussed the idea of Council hosting their own Volunteer of the Year (VOTY) recognition in January. Traditionally, the City has always held the award presentation at the January chamber banquet. In the last several years the City's presentation has been cut down to a few minutes and the banquet host reads the VOTY biography.

The Mayor would like Council to still participate in the chamber's banquet.

18. Discussion and possible action on revisions to Ordinance 2017-04 regulating Billboards within Beach City

Attorney Jackson has made the requested changes from the August 22nd meeting. Due to Hurricane Harvey, the changes were not ready in time for the September meeting. Mayor Combs and Council reviewed the ordinance:

Section 7 states a maximum structure size of eight feet above the ground and Mayor Combs feels this is a very restrictive sign ordinance. Should it be changed to ten feet? Section 8 states, no single sign shall exceed twenty square foot in area. Attorney Jackson clarified this refers to temporary signs only. Mayor Combs feels at the minimum this should be thirty-two square feet.

Section 9 There is verbiage stating that Council will review each application for a sign. Mayor Combs asked, how will this happen if there is nothing in the ordinance mentioning the application process. The permit process is to be added for on-premises signs.

Alderman Walker gave a final clarification of this discussion:

- a). No off premises signs
- b). On-premises signs need a permitting process
- c). No permitting process for political, real estate and garage sale signs.

Attorney Jackson will add the permitting process to the ordinance and bring back to Council.

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

No report

20. Report and update from the Mayor

- a). TGS will be at the November meeting to give an update on the Cedar Port projects.
- b). The auditing firm, Start, Garcia & Stanley (SGS) dropped off a preliminary report today and will make their presentation to Council in November.
- c). In August the Sheriff spoke with Mayor Combs about firearm discharge within Beach City, and the Mayor will invite the Sheriff to the November meeting to address Council about this matter.
- d). There was a letter distributed in the City from a candidate for the Alderman's position with misinformed information about the sales tax and the WCID. Mayor Combs invited the individual to this meeting. Mayor Combs has sent an email out to correct this information for those who may not be aware of the actual circumstances.
- e). We will be replacing the flooded office items and Council will need to make decisions on the expenses since they were obviously not allotted in the budget.
- f). Commissioner Senac will not seek election next year.

- g). Mayor Combs will be running for County Commissioner in 2018.
- h). Go ASTROS - Soon to be World Series Champs

21. Council Comments

None

22. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

Minutes Approved: December 19, 2017



Billy Combs, Mayor



Attest:



Evonne Donnelly, City Secretary