

COUNTY OF CHAMBERS
STATE OF TEXAS

City of Beach City

City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes

The City Council of the City of Beach City, Texas met in a **Special Called Meeting on May 17th, 2022** at the Beach City Community Building, 12723 FM 2354 Beach City, TX. 77523

Members Present: Mayor Ryan Dagley, Mayor Pro Tem Dana Colquitt, Alderman Ray Smith, Alderman Doug Walker, Alderman Ken Pantin and Alderman Paul Newman

Staff Present: City Secretary Evonne Donnelly

Legal Counsel: Daniel Jackson

1. Call to order and announcement of quorum

On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, Mayor Dagley called the Special Called Meeting to order at 6:04 PM

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

RECESS: 6:06 PM

RECONVENE: 6:17 PM

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

None

4. Hear report and update from Pct. 4 Chambers County Commissioner, Billy Combs

Commissioner Combs noted that the Grand Parkway / TX 99 will open May 19th and for the first two days no tolls will be charged.

The preconstruction meeting for Kilgore Parkway (KPW) will be held June 13th.

There will be upcoming discussions regarding the City of Beach City taking ownership of RWJ Airport/Airpark. If this happens, then the City of Beach City may choose to allow Chambers County to operate the airport, via Interlocal Agreement.

Construction on the TGS greenbelt must begin prior to any construction on FM 2354.

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

Chief McDonald stated that the VFD is still working on the pension plan.

6. Approve Minutes for the Regular Called Meeting of April 26th, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Called Meeting of April 26th, 2022

Motion: Newman

Second: Walker

Approved: 5-0

7. Approve Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of May 10th, 2022

Motion to approve

Motion: Colquitt

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

- 8. 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 Statement(s) for previous month
- (b) Review and approve Investment Update
- (c) Review and approve Expenditures for the current month
- (d) Review and approve Weekly Review of Accounts

Motion to approve

Motion: Pantin

Second: Walker

Approved: 5-0

- 9. Discussion and possible action to purchase a new copier for the City office**

Mayor Dagley updated Council that the office printer/copier is broken. The replacement cost is approximately \$1,000 for a color printer/copier.

Motion to buy one of equal quality of what we have now

Motion: Walker

Second: Smith

Approved: 5-0

Discussion: Mayor Dagley believes leasing a printer/copier is a great option. Alderman Smith asked about comparing leasing vs. purchase options. After discussing purchasing vs. buying a new copier, Council agreed that purchasing a new copier would be the best way to go.

Alderman Walker stated his experience is to buy it and use it until it doesn't work anymore, then you buy a new one.

- 10. Discussion and possible action to raise the City's credit card limit from \$1,000 to \$2,000**

Motion to approve

Motion: Pantin

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

- 11. Brought back from the April 26th, 2022 meeting:** Discussion and possible action to contract with an IT company, VC3, to service all five City computers on a yearly basis

Mayor Dagley noted that there are two bids for review, one from VC3 and one from Unified Data. The two bids are very comparable. The City needs IT support and after using the Geek Squad for years, it is time to look elsewhere.

Brian Carden, owner of Unified Data, spoke to Council and stated he will provide the antivirus agent, unlimited support and an agent that manages updates. His company will monitor the computers on a daily basis.

Mayor Dagley told Council they do not need to have IT support on all five City owned computers, which includes four laptops, they can choose to only cover the main desktop computer.

Alderman Newman feels having the maintenance on all computers is a good idea.

Alderman Pantin reviewed the IT bid from VC3 and everything is an additional charge unless you go with the Gold Plan. Alderman Pantin asked Mr. Carden the term length of his contract to which Mr. Carden replied, there is no contract; I have to earn your business every month.

Mayor Dagley asked what is not covered with the monthly fee. Mr. Carden answered, if the internet is down and they cannot remote in and need to come onsite, this will incur a trip charge. If you get a new system, there will be an hourly rate charged until the work is done for this project. The agent is unlimited support based on the monthly fee you are paying.

Motion to accept the services of Unified IT services for the five, one computer and four laptops

Motion: Pantin

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

- 12. Brought back from the May 10th, 2022 meeting:** Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2022-02 in connection with the City of Beach City's participation in Federally Funded Projects associated with the American Rescue Plan Act – Corona Virus Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA - CLFRF)

Aron Miller, with Public Management, spoke with Council at the May 10th meeting. After multiple questions from Alderman Newman, it was decided that Alderman Newman would rework the Citizen's Participation Plan (CPP) to fit Beach City's needs.

Alderman Newman presented the amendments to the CPP to Council and a motion was made.

Motion to approve

Motion: Smith

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

Discussion: Alderman Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Colquitt and Alderman Pantin thanked Alderman Newman for working on this over the weekend.

Alderman Newman thanked Council for their patience.

- 13. Consider and approve a Resolution Establishing the Baytown Sun as the Official Newspaper for the City of Beach City, per Section 52.004 of the Local Government Code**

Motion to approve

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

- 14. Discussion and possible action to contract with MyGovernmentOnline to assist the City Secretary with permit management**

Motion to table until next meeting

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

- 15. Discussion and possible action regarding speed limits on dead end streets within the city limits**

Mayor Pro Tem Colquitt would like to propose dropping the speed limits on dead end streets to 15 miles per hour (mph). There are people that are driving down the street at 25 mph, 30 mph or 40 mph and this is too fast for a dead-end street that is two blocks long.

Alderman Smith feels placing a distance clause on this would be the way to go.

Mayor Dagley noted that the City has the ability to change the speed limit but the signage would come from Chambers County and the City will have to pay for each sign. It would be best to drill down on the streets that would be better served to reduce the speed limit.

Alderman Newman would like to prioritize and determine which streets would need a speed reduction, like we did with the streetlights. This may even involve getting the citizens group together to evaluate this. Mayor Pro Tem Colquitt agrees with Alderman Newman on this idea.

Mayor Dagley fears lowering the speed limits carte blanche. Stating that we have a packed house here with people questioning why we lowered the speed limits on streets that may not have needed it. Alderman Smith questioned why 15 mph vs. 20 mph. Mayor Pro Tem Colquitt does not have a reason why she is requesting 15 mph.

Alderman Newman noted that 20 mph is a school zone.

Mayor Dagley will entertain a motion but feels it is best to wait until the areas are isolated that Mayor Pro Tem Colquitt is specifically concerned with. Council can expand this out in the future based on other area needs.

Motion to lower the speed limit to 20 miles per hour on Ocean Drive off of Jordan

Motion: Colquitt

Second: Newman

Approved: 5-0

Discussion: Alderman Smith asked if Council could discuss this after the residents have been polled to see how they feel about this in their neighborhoods? Mayor Dagley has a good idea for this and asked if this could be handled during Mayor's Comments; to which Alderman Smith replied, yes.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: City Council will hold a closed executive meeting pursuant to the provision of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code. *Items for executive session may include, but are not limited to, applicable sections under Texas Government Code*

- (a) Consultation with attorney – Section 551.071
- (b) Employee matters – Section 551.074

No Executive Session was held

17. Reconvene into Special Called Session and consider action, if any, for items discussed in Executive Session

No action

18. Brought back from the May 10th, 2022 meeting: Discussion and possible action regarding healthcare coverage for the City Secretary

Mayor Dagley noted that Secretary Donnelly submitted COBRA rates from Mr. Donnelly's employer. A Healthcare Market Place rate was received from an insurance broker for \$742.58 a month. However, this coverage does not cover some of the current needs for Secretary Donnelly.

Mayor Dagley believes that Council will be stuck with Secretary Donnelly leaving for a position with healthcare coverage.

The COBRA option should allow eighteen months of coverage and give time for Secretary Donnelly's exit. Once Mr. Donnelly retires, the clock will tick and a replacement City Secretary will be needed.

No action

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

No report

20. Report and update from the Mayor

a). The Houston Furniture Bank is a 501c3 organization and they are asking for a conduit loan for \$5.75 million dollars with the CEFFC. Mayor Dagley noted that a company may use the city's tax-exempt status and the city has no recourse on this bank note. This request will be added to the June 7th meeting.

b). Council will need to consider replacing Larry Conrad as the set-up / tear-down person, he has not been showing up to set up the tables and chairs. Mayor Dagley has stopped by the last couple of meetings to help Secretary Donnelly put the tables up.

c). TextMyGov is an alert system that the city could use to get information out.

d). Several months back there were several items on the agenda. CenterPoint (CNP) sent over the Distribution Cost Recovery Factor (DCRF) rate increase and Council denied that rate increase. Council also joined the City of Houston Coalition of Cities, which has been done several times over the years.

Mayor Dagley noted that he was in the presence of some CNP executives over the last 45-60 days and they were talking about this coalition. Mayor Dagley along with County Judge Sylvia, Commissioner Tice and Sheriff Hawthorne all met with one of the CNP executives about this coalition. This coalition is being led by a very liberal City of Houston government. According to this CNP executive, the coalition wants to remove \$200 million dollars of capital investment from CNP's recovery cost. Mayor Dagley stated the \$200 million dollars would only affect each consumer by \$1.25 per month on their bill. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will still hear the DCRF case and CNP will get their rate increase, even eighteen months down the road. We pay for it now, or pay for it down the

road. Down the road the cost could be possibly \$1.75 additional per month, which is a greater cost. Apparently CNP has been speaking to all the Galveston area cities. Mayor Dagley asked the CNP executive to present a formal presentation to Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Colquitt feels that CNP is going to give the best outlook that they want us to believe so we should also hear from the coalition to see what they have to say.

Mayor Dagley stated that the PUC gives us the same power as the coalition. Mayor Pro Tem Colquitt noted that the coalition gives us more power as a group, rather than an individual city alone with the PUC. Mayor Dagley feels that the PUC would fight for us on our behalf. Alderman Walker stated that they also fight for CNP.

Alderman Newman added that the PUC is no one's savior and putting your hope in what they will or will not do is not something he would recommend.

Alderman Pantin thinks each council member should look into this on their own and see what the PUC has done and what the coalition has done.

e). RWJ Airpark is owned by the HOA and it is a private airpark. They want to expand the runway/widen the runway to take on larger aircraft. Chambers County is strongly in favor of this and can apply for a grant to make these improvements. You may ask what does this have to do with Chambers County? By Federal law, you are only allowed two airports. Chambers County already has two airports in East Chambers County. The County grant writer stated that the City of Beach City could also receive these grants on behalf of the County.

The City would take ownership of the airpark, own the airport, and turn everything over to Chambers County via an Interlocal Agreement, for 99 years to perpetuity. This would be net zero cost to the City but we would be applying for the grants. The liability would be turned over to the County.

RWJ Airpark is not taxed because it is designated as an Emergency Airport for the government and State. If the grant falls through the City would not take ownership of the airport.

f). Signed TGS Greenbelt agreement is in place.

g). Commissioner Combs presented and Commissioners Court passed a Good Neighbor Policy regarding tax abatements.

h). The grand reopening of OceanWay Park was attended by the Mayor, Secretary Donnelly and Alderman Newman. This community looks great and it is a nice environment with a new pier, basketball court, play area for kids, etc. They are also working with the BCVFD to secure a water connection to their tank for a water supply. Mayor Dagley strongly encourages Council to drive through OceanWay and look at it.

i). The water line to the BCVFD by TGS is undergoing and the fire hydrant is coming to fruition.

21. Council Comments

Alderman Newman wants the Beach City residents to understand that pulling out in front of someone on a 55 mph highway requires more distance than some may realize. Please think about this before you pull out in front of someone.

Alderman Pantin is throwing his hat in the ring for Mayor; unless someone on Council that has been here longer than him would like to run for Mayor. None of the Aldermen responded as wanting to run for Mayor and applause was given for Alderman Pantin.

22. Adjourn at 8:03 P.M.

Minutes Approved: July 26, 2022



Ryan Dagley, Mayor

Attest:



Evonne Donnelly, City Secretary