

# **City of Beach City Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 21, 2013 at the Beach City Community Building. Those present were:

MAYOR: Billy Combs

MAYOR PROTEM: Jackey Lasater (arrived at 6:24 pm)

ALDERMAN: Paul Newman, Dana Colquitt, Doug Walker, and Ray Smith

CITY ATTORNEY: Daniel Jackson

CITY ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Evonne Donnelly

## **I. Call to order:**

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order Monday January, 21, 2013 at 6:03pm and offered prayer. Alderman Colquitt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

## **II. Citizens Comments:**

Sheriff Hawthorne updated Council on the current revisions being made within the Chambers County Sheriff's department and the positive impact he hopes it will bring to our communities.

## **III. Hear report and update from Chambers County Commissioner, Rusty Senac:**

Not present at this meeting.

## **IV. Public Hearing for Statement of Intent of The Natural Gas Company, LLC to Increase Rates Within the Incorporated City Limits of Beach City, Texas.**

Mayor Combs reviewed with Council the application and rate increase costs provided to him by Mr. Lannou with The Natural Gas Company. Mayor Combs invited any concerned citizens to speak and voice their concerns. Mayor Combs also recommended that Council suspend the Rate Increase Proposal for ninety days to give Council time to give formal notice to the affected residents of the proposed rate increase.

Mayor Combs, Aldermen Lasater and Newman will do more research and gather more information on this subject and report back to Council.

Resident Jay Whitney asked Mayor Combs the reason for the rate increase.

The Mayor replied that Mr. Lannou has not imposed a rate increase in five years and has not earned a salary from this company.

Resident Dan Dubois voiced his concerns with the proposed increase.

Resident Randy Gilmore asked if the rate hike could happen progressively, instead of increasing it all at once. Mayor Combs informed the residents that they are entitled to review the proposed rate increase and asked the residents to leave their email addresses so he could email the proposed rate increase statement to them.

**V. Consider and act on a Statement of Intent by The Natural Gas Company, LLC to Increase Rates Within the Incorporated City Limits of Beach City, Texas. Possible Actions Include;**

- 1. Take No Action. (This will allow the rate increase to automatically take effect per the statement of intent)**
- 2. Suspend the Rate Increase for 90 Days Beyond the 35<sup>th</sup> Day the Statement of Intent was Filed. (This will allow time to review the request and establish the final rate)**
- 3. Deny the Rate Increase**
- 4. Grant a Lower Rate than the Requested Rate Increase**
- 5. Approve the Rate Increase**

Mayor and Council agreed to hold a workshop session to review and discuss the information obtained by Aldermen Lasater & Newman and Mayor Combs.

Motion to suspend the rate increase for ninety days until further information can be obtained by Council.

MOTION: Walker

Seconded: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

**VI. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting of November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Minutes were incorrectly listed as November 27, 2012 instead of December 18, 2012 and cannot be approved. Approval postponed until the February 26, 2013 meeting.

**VII. Financial Consent Agenda;**

- 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**

Alderman Newman and Mayor Combs will shop CD rates for the Barbers Hill Bank CD that will mature on February 1.

Motion to approve the Financials:

Motion: Walker

Seconded: Newman

Approved: 5-0

**VIII. Approve Authorized Signatures for the operating bank account(s).**

Mayor Combs reviewed with Council the approval from a past meeting, to move the city checking account from Prosperity Bank to Capital Bank. Judy Barrow with Capital Bank requested a copy of the Minutes that states who will officially be on the signature card. Mayor Combs noted that former Alderman Bercaw is still listed on the account signature card and needs to be removed. Aldermen Jackey Lasater and Doug Walker along with Mayor Billy Combs are currently the approved signature card authorities for the checking account.

MOTION to remove Nick Bercaw from the bank signature card and add Alderman Dana Colquitt as signature card authority along with The Mayor, Billy Combs; Mayor Pro-Tem, Jackey Lasater; Councilman Doug Walker and Councilman Ray Smith

Motion: Newman

Seconded: Walker

Approved: 5-0

**IX. Approve Rental of Safe Deposit Box for City.**

After a discussion with the Council, Mayor Combs requested the Assistant City Secretary to research the cost of a fireproof file cabinet and a safety deposit box.

**X. Hear report and updates from the Mayor.**

The Mayor updated Council on the sewage system in Bayridge Subdivision and the issues stemming from the drainage within the subdivision. The Mayor is meeting with the County Engineer and Commissioner Senac to investigate the problem.

The WCCCC Banquet is Tuesday night and Beach City resident Bob Taylor has been named Person of the Year. BCVFD Fire Chief, Robert Campise is the Beach City Volunteer of the Year.

Mayor Combs has added DropBox to the City's computer system in order to coordinate or sync the Mayor's computer with the City's computer.

DropBox is a web-based server.

Alderman Colquitt and Alderman Newman need to obtain their Emergency ID Badges.

**XI. Council Member Comments**

None

**XII. Adjournment:**

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:36pm:  
Motion: Newman                      Seconded: Smith

Approved: 5-0

ATTEST TO:

APPROVED BY:

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Evonne Donnelly  
Assistant City Secretary

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Billy Combs  
Mayor