

# City of Beach City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes

The Beach City Council met for a Special Called Meeting on  
**January 17, 2017** beginning at approximately 6:00 P.M. 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 Paul Newman, and Alderman Dana Colquitt

**Members Arriving Late:** Alderman Ray Smith arrived at 6:45 P.M.

**Members Absent:** Alderman Doug Walker

**Staff Present:** City Secretary Evonne Donnelly and Assistant Secretary Marge Bercaw

**Legal Counsel Present:** City Attorney Daniel Jackson

## 1. Call to order and announcement of quorum

On Tuesday January 17, 2017 Mayor Combs announced enough members are present for a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Alderman Smith will be late and Alderman Walker will not make the meeting.

## 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Combs offered prayer.

Alderman Newman 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

No report

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

Chief Pat McDonald updated Council on the new pumper truck that was purchased. Three of the BCVFD members will fly to Wisconsin on January 26<sup>th</sup> for the acceptance test on the truck.

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beach City Volunteer Fire Department.

BCVFD Members have been working to demolish the current office area and relocate it, in order to make way for a new bay and add a larger training room. The estimated time frame for the BCVFD expansion is undetermined. The name of the new truck is Nicol.

**6. Approval of Minutes for Special Called Meeting of December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Motion** to approve the minutes of December 20, 2016

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Lasater

**Approved:** 3

**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

(d) Discussion and possible action on CD maturing February 2017

**Motion** to approve

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approved:** 3

Mayor Combs discussed with Council the CD maturing in February. Secretary Donnelly recently spoke with a brokerage company, FNC (Financial Northeastern Companies) that specializes in working with public entities. They currently have a 12-month CD rate for 1.20%. An 18-month CD rate is 1.40% and a 24-month CD rate at 1.55%. Some people are predicting there will be more interest rate hikes this year. Mayor Combs and Secretary Donnelly have not had time to research and/or gather information on FNC.

Council discussed the possibility of interest rates increasing within the next year. The consensus is to go with the shortest term possible, 12 months, at the highest interest rate offered.

**Motion** to approve the financials

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approved:** 3

**8. Consider and approve renewing Interlocal Agreements with Chambers County for: Food, Nuisance, Flood Plain and On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) for 2017**

**Motion** to approve the Chambers County Interlocal Agreements for Food, Nuisance, Floodplain and On-Site Sewage Facility

**Motion:** Lasater

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approved:** 3

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

**Motion** to approve

**Motion:** Lasater

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approved:** 3

**10. Consider and approve agreement with the Barbers Hill Lions Club to participate in the Barbers Hill area patriotic flag program**

Motion to continue to support the Barbers Hill Lions Club Flag Program

**Motion:** Colquitt

**Second:** Newman

**Approved:** 3

**11. Consider an ordinance consenting to the creation of Beach City Water Control and Improvement District (WCID)**

City Council needs to approve the WCID to operate within our municipal district boundaries. Next, it will be sent over to the County for Commissioners Court to approve its actual creation. The temporary board members appointed are: Don Richardson, Jerry Traylor, Jim Denighby Sharon Smith and Jamie Neal. Three of the interim board members represent Bayridge Subdivision and two represent Oaks at Houston Point Subdivision.

The hope is to have this on the May election ballot where the voters (residents of the two subdivisions previously mentioned) will vote on the Board of Directors and the bond issue, which will allow the bonds to be sold. After the election, the WCID Board of Directors will hire the Engineer; determine when bonds are sold; negotiate the purchase of land and the possible purchase of the CNN (Certificate of Need and Necessity), etc.

**Motion** to approve Ordinance 2017-01 giving consent to the creation to the Water Control and Improvement District

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approved:** 3

**12. Consider and discuss hiring a professional company to update and maintain our City website**

Secretary Donnelly asked Council to review a proposal from a web designer that creates websites for municipalities. Council feels it's best to wait until budget time to review this cost and have other options for Council to review.

Alderman Newman asked if other avenues have been looked into such as, unpaid interns or college kids?

Mayor Combs wants the ordinances on the City website and easily accessible to the public. Mayor Pro Tem Lasater will take over the current website until Council revisits this again at budget workshop.

NOTE: Alderman Smith arrived for Council at 6:45 pm.

**13. Consider and approve a request to install a streetlight on the corner of FM 2354 and McKinney**

Mayor Combs read an email from a resident that lives on McKinney. The resident requested a streetlight be installed on FM 2354 and McKinney for safety concerns of the school buses picking up children on FM 2354 and the elderly who live nearby.

Council discussed how many streetlights are actually needed for the safety of the school buses loading and unloading children throughout the City.

Alderman Newman stated that you cannot piecemeal this and Council should go through and evaluate all areas in the City and determine where it is too dark for the loading and unloading of school children.

Mayor Combs added that it would be a good idea to speak to the BHISD bus drivers and our BCVFD to hear what they have to say.

Alderman Colquitt stated that in the past, she and Alderman Walker have discussed driving the City and noting the areas of concern, where lighting is an issue.

Alderman Colquitt and Alderman Newman will work together on this committee and report back to Council.

**Motion** to check with the fire department, schools and residents in the area to check on adequate street lighting.

**Motion:** Colquitt

**Second:** Newman

**Approved:** 3

**Discussion:** Mayor Combs added that there are some areas of town that are very dark and this is not only an issue for school buses loading and unloading but for the BCVFD, emergency responders, etc. if they should respond to a call after dark.

**14. Hear report and update on Bayridge and Oaks at Houston Point Subdivisions regarding the formation of a utility district**

As noted in Item 11, Council approved an order to form a utility district.

Mayor Combs apprised Alderman Smith of what transpired during the discussion of Item 11, since he arrived after this discussion and motion.

**15. Update, discussion and possible action on the formation of a citizen's committee to evaluate the need of a potential Sales & Use Tax for Beach City**

Alderman Newman asked if someone would be willing to trade places with him on this committee. Mayor Combs stated that he would assist Aldermen Newman and Smith by sending out an email blast to residents and contact some of the business owners.

**16. Discussion and possible action on an Ordinance regulating Billboards within Beach City**

Secretary Donnelly will send Council the revisions Mayor Combs has made to the proposed Billboard Ordinance, via email since some Council members have not had time to review the changes.

**17. Update and discussion on the City Survey results**

To date, Assistant Secretary Bercaw has received and added 184 surveys into the database. After reviewing a few of the categories with Council, it was determined that a comparison should be made to the previous surveys to gage the areas of change.

**18. Report and update from Mayor Combs**

1. CEFFC funding for the HACS loan should happen in February
2. The new tower is complete and running. The signal strength is far better than it used to be.
3. Rise Broadband is working with the County to move their equipment over to the new tower and possibly up to 220 feet.
4. The chamber banquet is on January 24<sup>th</sup>.
5. Chambers County Day is February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
6. Chambers County's new Jail and justice center was approved by a vote of 3-2 with the Judge being the tiebreaker. The jail will remain in Anahuac. The Republican Party of Chambers County will meet and discuss this matter on Monday. The Judge is shooting for a public hearing on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### 19. Council Comments

Alderman Newman discussed the traffic backup at TX. 99 onto Hwy 146.  
Alderman Smith noted the traffic is bad on FM 3180 toward I-10. He has to cut up TX. 99 and access I-10 this way to avoid the backup. Also, people are still running stop signs!

#### 20. Adjourn

**Motion** to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approved:** 4

Minutes Approved on February 28, 2017



Billy Combs, Mayor

Attest:



Evonne Donnelly, City Secretary