

City of Beach City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, **October 22, 2013** at the Beach City Community Building. Those present were:

MAYOR: Billy Combs - **Absent**

MAYOR PRO TEM: Jackey Lasater

ALDERMEN: Doug Walker; Dana Colquitt; Ray Smith, Paul Newman

CITY ATTORNEY: Daniel Jackson

CITY SECRETARY: Evonne Donnelly

ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY: Marge Bercaw

I. Call to order:

Mayor Pro-Tem Lasater called the meeting to order Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 6.06 pm.

Assistant City Secretary Marge Bercaw offered the prayer.

Alderman Newman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

II. Citizens Comments:

Sheriff Hawthorne was in attendance and stated that he was only able to stay for the Council meeting for approximately five to ten minutes. Sheriff Hawthorne was accompanied by Deputy Dan Houghton.

Alderman Colquitt asked if any of the trucks/dump trucks have been stopped for speeding on FM 2354. Sheriff Hawthorne said that he has a full time traffic unit and probably 70%-80% of what he stops is commercial vehicles. Sheriff Hawthorne feels that all that can be done to the slow down the speeding trucks is being done.

According to Sheriff Hawthorne, there has been an increase of revenue at Judge Cryer's office due to the tickets written to the speeding commercial vehicles. Sheriff Hawthorne stated that he has added a second deputy to work the traffic unit, starting January 1, 2014.

Alderman Colquitt told the Sheriff about an elderly friend of hers who was scammed over the phone by someone pretending to be her grandson. Alderman Colquitt stated that her friend called the Chambers County Sheriff's Office and the Deputy did not write a report on the incident.

Sheriff Hawthorne told Council to call him immediately, anytime that they hear of an issue that they feel has not been addressed by his department.

Sheriff Hawthorne spoke of several burglaries within Beach City and he does not feel they are related. He noted that Beach City is not seeing a spike in the crime rate. The Sheriff also mentioned that 911 is to be used for anything you think you may need a Deputy for. Do not hesitate to call 911 if something is not right or seems out of place in your neighborhood.

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

None

IV. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of September 24, 2013.

Motion to approve minutes:

Motion: Walker Second: Colquitt Approved: 5-0

V. 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 Walker noted the calculations for September 2013, Expense Item 2110 - Secretary Salary, showed a zero expense balance. Secretary Donnelly reminded Council that Mayor Combs spoke at September's meeting regarding the issues we are having with QuickBooks. Mayor Combs spoke of calling his CPA to obtain assistance to correct these issues.

Also, Alderman Walker noted Item 3120 -Telephone, is already 5.32% over budget. Secretary Donnelly stated that the 281.573.4578 phone line costs approximately \$50.00 per month and the 281.383.3180 line costs approximately \$105.00 per month.

Motion to accept the financials as stated:

Motion: Walker Second: Newman Approved: 5-0

VI. Update, discussion and possible action on a water utility rate increase for customers within the corporate limits of Beach City filed by Aqua Texas.

Discussion tabled until November's Meeting.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Lasater reviewed the Fire Code Enforcement Interlocal agreement with Council.

Secretary Donnelly pointed out that Item V of the Interlocal Agreement states there is a fee to the citizens per the County's fee schedule. After speaking with Chambers County Emergency Management Coordinator Ryan Holzaepfel via e-mail, he assured Secretary Donnelly that there would be no fees imposed to the Beach City residents.

Motion to accept the Fire Code Enforcement Interlocal Agreement.
Motion: Walker **Second:** Newman **Approved:** 5-0

VIII. Discussion and possible action on authorizing Secretary Donnelly and/or Assistant Secretary Bercaw to process the 941 Quarterly Tax Payments via the Electronic Federal Tax System - EFTPS .

Motion to authorize Secretary Donnelly and/or Assistant Secretary Bercaw to process the 941 Quarterly Tax payments via the Electronic Federal Tax System - EFTPS.

Motion: Smith **Second:** Newman **Approved:** 5-0

IX. Discussion and possible action on Surplus Office Equipment.

There are three file cabinets - two five drawers and one four drawer cabinet, and two stereo speakers. It's a possibility that the Beach City VFD may take the speakers.

Alderman Colquitt offered to sell the surplus equipment in her garage sale in a few weeks.

After discussion among Council it was determined that the best way to unload these items would be via an e-mail auction.

Motion to take the used office equipment and ask our Mayor to do a silent auction on his group e-mail account:

Motion: Smith **Second:** Colquitt **Approved:** 5-0

X. Discussion and possible action on Crime Prevention Programs in Beach City.

Jay Hammes and Chambers County Deputy Dan Houghton spoke to the Council regarding a Beach City Neighborhood Watch Program. Deputy Houghton reviewed the basics of the program and offered to speak to any group or Home Owner's Association in Beach City that may be interested.

XI. Consider requests for participation in the 3rd Annual Sit down with Santa.

Jay Hammes spoke to the Council and suggested several dates for the Sit Down with Santa. Council agreed to Saturday December 07, 2013 at 6:30pm.

Jay Hammes said that she will provide hotdogs, drinks, etc. She asked for dessert donations.

Council spoke of a two-hundred dollar contractual agreement for the Sit Down with Santa. Council will discuss this and other details in more depth at the November 26th. meeting.

XII. Discussion on the process to obtain Nominations for 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

Nominations to be sent to the City Secretary no later than December 10, 2013.

XIII. Update from Survey Committee.

Alderman Colquitt reviewed the previous city survey with Council. After much discussion on all the individual categories, Council agreed to and completed the questionnaire categories.

Alderman Colquitt will re-type the form and review it with Council once again at the November meeting.

XIV. Update from Committee for Memorial for Spc. Grace.

Alderman Walker, Alderman Lasater, & Mayor Combs met with Daniel Riggs, father of the late PFC. Wesley Riggs, and discussed with him the option to move his son's memorial stone to the new proposed memorial or leave it as is. Mr. Riggs liked the idea of the new memorial and gave his approval to moving his son's memorial stone to the new monument.

Alderman Walker stated that his committee is waiting on more cost

information from Chris Navarre and will give another update at November's meeting.

XV. Hear report and updates from the Mayor:

None

XVI. Council Member Comments:

Alderman Walker likes the idea of a neighborhood watch, but in small succinct groups.

Also, Alderman Walker spoke of the H-GAC meeting on October 24th in Baytown, he will try to attend.

XVII. Adjournment:

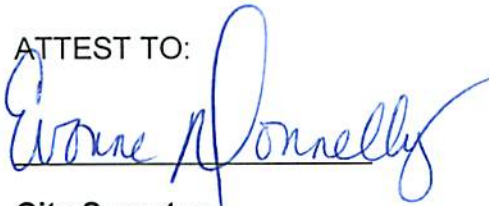
Motion made to adjourn at 8:02pm:

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 5-0

ATTEST TO:



City Secretary
Evonne Donnelly

APPROVED BY:



Mayor
Billy Combs