

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

The Beach City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday,  
**September 23, 2014** 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, Alderman Dana Colquitt and Alderman Ray Smith

**Note:** Alderman Smith arrived at: 6:16 pm

**Members Absent:** Alderman Doug Walker

**Staff Present:** City Secretary Evonne Donnelly, Assistant Secretary Marge Bercaw and City Attorney Daniel Jackson

**1. Call to order**

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 6:01 pm.

**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**

Commissioner Senac unable to attend meeting.

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

Acting Fire Chief Pat McDonald gave an update to Council. He presented the Beach City Volunteer Fire Department (BCVFD) approved budget for 2014-2015. All engines and equipment are now totally paid for. Tomorrow BCVFD will have a meeting to review invoices and bids for rescue tools and other equipment possibly totaling over \$30,000.

Chief McDonald reported a recruit class of seven with training progressing very well. There will be a yearly fundraiser letter sent to Beach City residents. The Incident Report presented for 2014 to date shows an increase in aid response compared to 2013, due to automatic aid

partnership with Cove VFD. Statistics show a very large increase in motor vehicle accidents in Cove compared to all of 2013. Chief McDonald reported it is beneficial to the morale of the recruits to use the skills they have been trained for and respond to these calls for aid. The Chief also reported the new Wal-Mart on Hwy. 146 and I-10 is Mont Belvieu's response area. BCVFD will respond, if requested to assist.

**6. Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Mayor Combs noted changes to be made to the minutes:

Item V change the word "voted" to "set" and the word, "bill" to "budget".

Item XV change "did appoint" to "appointed".

**Motion to approve Regular Minutes from August 26, 2014.**

**Motion: Newman**

**Second: Colquitt**

**Approved:**

**Motion amended to approve the minutes as just amended from August 26, 2014.**

**Amended Motion: Newman**

**Amended Second: Colquitt**

**Approved: 4-0**

**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

**Motion to approve the Financials.**

**Motion: Lasater**

**Second: Colquitt**

**Approved: 4-0**

**8. Discuss and consider an ordinance to approve a water rate increase for Aqua Texas, affecting residents of the Barrow Ranch Subdivision**

Present at this Council meeting is Mr. Geoffrey Kirshbaum of the Terrill Firm representing Aqua Texas. Mayor Combs explained Ordinance 2014-02 recently approved by the Council does not technically meet some of the needed criteria.

Mr. Kirshbaum presented a comprehensive Settlement Agreement with an attached Tariff and attachments to the Tariff. He also drafted an Ordinance for consideration by the Council. He wants to know if the City is in agreement with the rates outlined in the Tariff in the Settlement Agreement. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) now has water rate jurisdiction, not TCEQ which has different procedures for cases transferred to them by TCEQ.

**Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Tariff with stipulation there is not an application for rate change submitted before September 1, 2018.**

**Motion: Lasater**

**Second: Newman**

**Approved: 3-0**

**9. Consider revisions and/or updates to Ordinance #97-6 concerning the Establishment of Trailer Parks in the City limits of Beach City**

Alderman Newman stated the committee has not met but he has a recommendation. If the committee is in agreement to prevent a stall, take Ordinance 97-6 as it is currently updated, clarifying some of the descriptive terminology and bring back to Council in the near future for additional changes.

**Motion to approve as amended and presented to Council.**

**Motion:** Newman

**Second:** Smith

**Approved:** 4-0

**10. Discussion and possible action on Permitting and Permit Fees**

This will be looked at next month with a Resolution and Ordinance presented to Council.

**11. Hear and consider request from resident Richard Walmsley to abandon a City easement on Mackrell Street**

Mayor Combs discussed the provided documentation of previous City Council meeting minutes where easement abandonment requests have been made. It is clear from all of the prior minutes, City Council did not want to set a precedent of abandoning the city easements. In this case, Mr. Walmsley owns the property on both sides of the 50-foot wide easement owned by the City. The City has ingress and egress on the easement. Mayor Combs told Mr. Walmsley he can use the easement property but cannot build a structure on said easement.

**Motion:** No motion made

**12. Discussion and possible action on the appointment of the City's Representative and Alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) 2015 General Assembly**

**Motion to appoint Alderman Paul Newman as Representative and Alderman Doug Walker as Alternate to H-GAC 2015 General Assembly.**

**Motion:** Lasater

**Second:** Colquitt

**Approved:** 4-0

**13. Consider and approve a Resolution *supporting* the Ike Dike Concept being proposed by Texas A&M-Galveston**

Mayor Combs noted that there is a correction to be made to the Resolution supporting the Ike Dike concept, in that Beach City has approximately twelve miles of frontage on Trinity Bay; not four miles.

Mayor Combs explained the Ike Dike and Centennial Gate Concepts to Council.

The Ike Dike Concept is being proposed by Dr. Bill Merrell of Texas A&M.

The Centennial Gate Concept is being proposed by SSPEED from Rice University.

**Motion as amended to accept Resolution 2014-2 supporting the Ike Dike Concept.**  
**Motion: Smith                              Second: Lasater                              Approved: 4-0**

**14. Consider and approve a Resolution *opposing* the Centennial Gate Concept proposed by Rice University, SSPEED (Severe Storm Prediction, Education and Evacuation from Disasters) Center**

There are two corrections to be made to the motion on the table: The Resolution currently states that Beach City has four miles of frontage on Trinity Bay, the correction should state there is approximately twelve miles of sea level frontage on Trinity Bay. It also states that the Centennial Gate is proposed South or East of Beach City; the correct location is Southwest of Beach City.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2014-03 to oppose the Centennial Gate as presented by Rice University and SSPEED.**

**Motion: Newman                              Second: Lasater                              Approved:**  
**Motion Amended to approve Resolution 2014-3 with the amendments that Beach City has twelve miles of sea level frontage and that the Centennial gate will be proposed in a Southwest direction from Beach City.**  
**Amended Motion: Newman      Amended Second: Lasater                              Approved: 4-0**

**15. Update, discussion and possible action on the dedication of the Fallen Heroes Memorial and a Resolution of Appreciation recognizing the following for their donations:**

- (a) NRG Energy**
- (b) Precision Lawns-Clayton Bracey**
- (c) CenterPoint Electric, Baytown**
- (d) West Chambers County Pilot Club (WCCPC)**
- (e) Capital Bank, Baytown**

Mayor Combs wants to make special plaques thanking the donors who have made this memorial possible. Mayor Combs has spoken with Commissioner Senac about putting a fence behind the memorial area to separate it from the background. Two benches are being donated for this memorial and concern was expressed they would be used for smokers to sit that might be using the community building. The Mayor may ask the County to provide a bench in front of the building for the smokers.

The committee met with the families of the two Fallen Heroes on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The families were shown the plans and visited the memorial area and were very approving.

**Motion to approve Resolutions.**  
**Motion: Newman                              Second: Colquitt                              Approved: 4-0**

**16. Discussion and possible action on the new City sign**

Mayor Combs has a \$750.00 quote from Anchor Printing for the new City sign. This cost will include two, one-half inch plywood signs and the tracks for the signs. This price does not include installation or lettering. Council will discuss this at a future meeting.

**17. Discuss and consider disposal of two computer stations**

Motion to dispose.

Motion: Smith

Second: Newman

Approved: 4-0

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

Mayor Combs reported the monies Beach City approved as a joint venture with Chambers County and TXDOT is being considered for some kind of a speed indicator sign. Chambers County has appointed a committee headed by Commissioner Senac to determine what is needed. TXDOT is agreeable with the sign. The County is more in favor of a mobile sign vs. a permanent-type sign. Mayor Combs is agreeable with a moveable sign as long as it is used on roads in our area.

**19. Council Comments**

No comments by Council but City Secretary at this time presented Mayor Combs a gift and birthday card for his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday from the Council.

**20. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm

Motion: Newman

Second: Colquitt

Approved: 4-0

Approved: **October 28, 2014**

  
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Billy Combs, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Evonne Donnelly, City Secretary