

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON  
WORKSHOP - MARCH 28, 2019**

3/28/2019 - Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

**With a quorum present, the workshop was called to order at 8:02 a.m.**

2. ROLL CALL

**Present: Mayor Pro Tem Craig Brown, Council Member Amy Bly, Council Member David Collins, Council Member John Listowski, and Council Member Jackie Cole. Council Member Jason Hardcastle arrived at 8:04 a.m.**

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.A. Clarification Of Consent And Regular City Council Agenda Items - This Is An Opportunity For City Council To Ask Questions Of Staff On Consent And Regular Agenda Items. (30 Minutes)

**Items 8A, 8D, 10B, 11H, 11L, 11O, and 12A were clarified by City Staff. Item 12C was clarified by Park Board Staff.**

3.B. Discuss The Permitting Of Scooters (Brown/Yarbrough - 30 Minutes)

**Development Services Director Tim Tietjens reported that some companies have shown interest in wanting to begin operations in Galveston. Discussion was held regarding the different types of scooters currently being operated in cities around the country. There is one vendor that wants to bring in a particular type of scooter at this time. A few months ago, the City Council approved an ordinance requiring a permit to operate docked and dockless bicycles in the city. Dr. Cole reported that Scottsdale has a great program for scooters and suggested that staff look into ordinances of cities that have successful programs. The Planning Department will look into comparable cities and will bring the information back to City Council at the April Workshop.**

3.C. Discuss An Ordinance Of The City Of Galveston, Texas, Amending "The Code Of The City Of Galveston 1982, As Amended", Chapter 34, "Traffic" By Adding Article X, "Valet Parking" To Allow For Regulations Related To Valet Parking In The City Of Galveston; Providing For A Penalty; Making Various Findings And Provisions Related To The Subject; Providing For An Effective Date (Legal - 30 Minutes)

**Assistant City Attorney Donna Fairweather advised there are two versions of the proposed Valet Parking ordinance. The original ordinance in the agenda packet provides regulations for valet parking only in the Central Business District. The amended version provided to City Council this morning provides regulations Island wide. Discussion was held regarding whether to apply the regulations Island wide or for only the Central Business District. This item is on today's Regular Meeting agenda for the Council's consideration.**

3.D. Receive And Discuss A Report From The Moody Foundation On Their Efforts To Bring Computers And WiFi To Island Students (Hardcastle/Yarbrough - 15 Minutes)

**Paul Gaido reported on the Moody Foundation's efforts to bring computers and WiFi to Island students. Moody Foundation Director of Education Angela Blair and CompuDock representative Megan Steckley provided specific information on the program. Paul Gaido provided information on the 50 cities in the US that provides free internet access to students and asked City Manager Brian Maxwell for assistance in finding a way to provide internet access to students in their homes.**

3.E. Discuss An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Galveston, Texas, Amending Chapter 7, "Animals And Fowl" Of The "The Code Of The City Of Galveston, 1982, As Amended" By Adding Article VIII. "Dogs In Outdoor Dining Or Eating Areas", To Allow Dogs In Outdoor Dining Or Eating Areas At Food Establishments; To Provide A Penalty Provision; Making Various Findings And Provisions Related To The Subject; And Providing For An Effective Date (Legal - 30 Minutes)

**Assistant City Attorney Donna Fairweather provided information on Senate Bill 476 introduced in the State Legislature. The proposed ordinance is identical to the bill. Animal Services Supervisor Josh Henderson advised that dogs on patios is not currently allowed by the State Health Code unless the City specifically has regulations that allows it. He reported that lots of tourists bring their dogs with them on vacation and are forced to leave the in the car while eating in restaurants. The proposed ordinance would allow customers to bring their dogs onto outdoor patios at restaurants.**

- 3.F. Discuss Current Island Transit Fixed Routes, ADA Paratransit/Demand Response Services, Fares, And To Schedule A Separate Public Meeting And 14 Day Public Comment Period To Solicit Public Input On Potential Service And Fare Structure Changes (R. Beverlin - 15 Minutes)

**Assistant City Manager Rick Beverlin provided information on current Island Transit Fixed Routes, ADA/Paratransit/Demand Response Services, and Fares. He reported on an upcoming separate public meeting and a 14-day public comment period to solicit public input on potential service and fare structure changes. He presented potential considerations for additional cost savings.**

- 3.G. Discussion Of The 2018 Revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps And The Corresponding Flood Insurance Study, And An Amendment To The City Of Galveston's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance; And Establishing An Effective Date For The Three The Documents In Final Form. (T. Tietjens)

**Development Services Director Tim Tietjens reported that the City received the Letter of Final Determination for the Flood Maps. The question before the City Council today is when the City would like to have the revised flood maps become effective. The City has three options: (1) adopt the new FIS/FIRM now, but have the effective date of the ordinance being the effective date of the new FIS/FIRM, (2) adopt the new FIS/FIRM now, with it becoming effective immediately, or (3) wait until right before the effective date to adopt the new FIS/FIRM. Staff advised that the maps need to be adopted separately from the Building Codes.**

- 3.H. Receive And Discuss An Update On The Debt Management Policy (Buckley/Loftin - 15 Minutes)

**Assistant City Manager Mike Loftin presented the updated Debt Management Policy. He advised the Park Board is not included in the Scope of the policy. The Park Board has their own ability to issue debt in the form of revenue bonds.**

- 3.I. Receive And Discuss A Report On Police Car Inventory (Cole/Listowski - 15 Minutes)

**City Manager Brian Maxwell reported that eliminating the take home car program will be a cost savings of between \$50,000 and \$75,000 a year. In 2013, Mr. Maxwell brought a proposal to then City Manager Michael Kovacs to create the take home car program based on expended inventory, meaning cars that had already been retired from the fleet. Officers were given the choice to take home one of the older cars, they could use it and make it their own car. This was done with the Police Chief and then President of the GMPA and was approved within the City Manager's purview. It has been brought to management's attention that there are issues with the cars and they are indeed aging. The City cannot afford to continue to replace the take home cars and will be eliminating the older cars from the fleet. By doing so, the City will have one of the newest fleets in the State. Management will continue to allow take home cars for upper PD management and the Animal Control Officer. The Police Chief advised this will not affect any services. Executive Director David Smith provided information on the Police Department's fleet. Since 2013, the City has purchased a total of 72 vehicles for the Police Department fleet totaling \$2.8 million. The Police Debarment currently has 15 to 20 take home cars. City Management will be discontinuing the take home car program which will reduce the fleet by 15 cars. Police Chief Hale reported that he did a lot of research on take home car programs. He advised that every current take home car was previously replaced with a new vehicle for the PD fleet, but they were kept in inventory when the take home car program was created in 2013. He also advised the long term plan is to have some sort of take home car program.**

- 3.J. Receive And Discuss An Update On Pelican Island Bridge (Yarbrough - 45 Minutes)

**Mayor Yarbrough reported that the County will serve as local sponsor for the project. The City**

will commit \$5 million toward the effort. The Navigation District committed \$10 million for the cost of demolition of the bridge. The County and City will share 50/50 cost overruns. In five years, the City will own the bridge once it is accepted and completed. Senator Larry Taylor is working on legislation to align the bridge going around the Texas A&M campus. The cost for going straight through the campus is \$77 million, and the cost for going around is \$99 million. Funding sources include \$45 million from TxDOT, \$18 million from H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council, \$5 million from the County, \$5 million from the City, and \$10 million from the Navigation District. The County is committed to getting this project done. As of right now, the funding source for the City's portion has not been identified.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

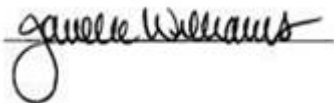
**The City Council took a break at 12:40 p.m., convened into Executive Session at 12:48 p.m., and reconvened into Open Session at 1:10 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.**

- 4.A. Pursuant To Texas Gov't Code 551.071- Consultation With Attorney, An Executive Session Will Be Conducted To Discuss And Receive Legal Advice Concerning Pending Litigation And/Or A Settlement Offer, Or On A Matter In Which The Duty Of The Attorney To The Governmental Body Under The Texas Disciplinary Rules Of Professional Conduct Of The State Bar Of Texas Clearly Conflicts With This Chapter, Related To The Following:

4.A.1. Briefing On Matters Related To The Police Pension Board And Its Retirement Fund

5. ADJOURNMENT

**The workshop was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.**



Janelle Williams, City Secretary  
Date Approved: April 25, 2019