

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
WORKSHOP - MARCH 25, 2021

3/25/2021 - Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

With a quorum present, the workshop was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present (via videoconference): Mayor Dr. Craig Brown, Mayor Pro Tem David Collins, Council Member E. R. Johnson, Council Member William Schuster, Council Member Bill Quiroga, Council Member John Listowski, and Council Member Marie Robb.

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 (20 Minutes)

Items 9B, 9C, 10C, 10D, 10F, 10H, 10I, 10M, 10N, 11A, 11B, 11C, and 11D were clarified by Staff.

3.B. Discussion Of Lessons Learned From Winter Storm 2021 (Brown - 30 Minutes)

City Manager Brian Maxwell reported that the City has really good plans for hurricanes and some other events but are lacking in the area of winter storms. Deputy City Manager Dan Buckley provided issues that were communication, temporary action taken, and recommended actions to consider. He reported that we need to better plan for different types of events and take a different approach depending on the event. He presented a list of 35 items that are being addressed by staff. He reported that this was not only an island event, but a statewide event. City Council commended Public Works, the Fire Department, and Sanitation for the outstanding job done during the storm. CM Robb reported that issues with plumbing and repairs to homes in her District are still being worked on. Discussion was held regarding cell service, gas service, citizens still without water and needing repairs, an automated system on shutting off water, updating the emergency plans, looking into adding a plan for a gas explosion,

3.C. Discussion Of The Mardi Gras Contract (B. Maxwell - 15 Minutes)

Mayor Brown declared a conflict and did not participate in the discussion of this item. City Attorney Don Glywasky provided an update on the Court Case related to Mardi Gras. David Smith provided an overview of the RFP process for the new Mardi Gras contract, provisions in the new proposed contract, and Mardi Gras costs for years through 2020. Discussion was held regarding whether the City has the right to audit the event, if there is going to be a public hearing before approval of the proposed contract,

3.D. Discussion Of Refurbishing The Fourth Trolley (D. Smith - 15 Minutes)

David Smith provided an overview of City Council's prior action related to restoration of the rail trolley system which was approved by Council on February 26, 2015. Three trolleys have been restored and staff is now considering the restoration of the fourth and final trolley. Gomaco has offered to restore the fourth car for \$1.4 million if the city decides to have the work performed. If the fourth trolley is not restored, the Federal Transit Administration would require a payback for the single trolley estimated at \$996,181. Any payback would come through the General Fund. This information was verified both in writing as well as through a verbal conversation on March 16, 2021. Discussion was held regarding whether the FTA might consider allowing the city to add the fourth trolley as one or two wheel trolleys vs. a rail trolley.

3.E. Discussion Of Easement Policies (Quiroga/Brown - 15 Minutes)

CM Quiroga requested this item be placed on the agenda to discuss an issue with a sewer line

under a resident's garage. City Manager Brian Maxwell reported that an unpermitted structure was built over the sewer line at some point, and the city went in and used the slip line method to repair the line. He reported that the property owner filed a claim with the city and it will be handled in the usual manner. CM Quiroga wants to get some relief for the property owner and wanted to know whether they were notified of the work ahead of time. The City Manager will work with CM Quiroga to make sure all of his questions are answered. CM Robb asked a question about a case in Pirates Beach where the resident is hauling infill into a drainage easement. The City Marshal and Planning Department have contacted the property owner and will revisit the property and take any necessary action.

3.F. City Updates (20 Minutes)

1. **45th and 49th Street Projects (Quiroga/Brown)** - Dudley Anderson provided an update on CenterPoint's schedule for installing street lighting on 45th Street; Trino Pedraza provided an update on the 49th Street Project including removal of barricades and barrels, how the 49th Street project was chosen over other streets, and slopes on 49th Street that will be taken care of during the Avenue S project.
2. **Coyote Control (Quiroga/Brown)** - Discussion was held regarding how coyotes are managed and what methods can be taken to relocate them. Animal Control Officer Josh Henderson provided information on how issues with feral cats are related to coyotes.
3. **Street Lighting (Quiroga/Brown)** - CM Quiroga thanked Mr. Maxwell for getting information related to street light outages on the water bills. City Manager Maxwell reported on how to report street light outages. CM Robb asked for information on how to get street lights added to the lighting plan.
4. **Police Coverage in District 6 (Robb/Quiroga)** - CM Robb requested additional police coverage for District 6 which runs from 61st Street to the end of the Island. She reported that each of the neighborhoods in District 6 have to pay for security especially on the weekends. Chief Hale reported there is equal coverage for each of the districts. CM Robb requested a meeting with the Chief, City Marshal, and City Manager to discuss police coverage.

3.G. Discussion Of Golf Cart Issues On Seawall Boulevard (Quiroga/Robb - 15 Minutes)

This item was placed on the agenda by CM Quiroga and CM Robb to discuss issues with golf carts being driven on the Seawall. CM Robb requested that City Council consider an ordinance that would prohibit golf carts on Seawall. This item will be placed on the next agenda for a discussion of golf carts in general, not just on Seawall, to see how they are managed, and then make a recommendation for the Planning Commission to review. City Attorney Don Glywasky and City Marshal Butch Stroud advised that staff is currently working on amendments to the golf cart ordinance to address these issues.

3.H. Discussion Of Proposed Policy Related To The Return To In Person Meetings And Associated Protocol Related To Public Attendance At City Council And City Committee Meetings (Brown - 15 Minutes)

The City Council discussed options for coming back to in-person meetings using the guidelines provided by Staff. Staff has laid out a format in Room 204 for in-person meetings for regular meetings of Council but would not allow public attendance. Also, staff would continue to attend the meetings virtually. This item is on today's regular agenda for Council's consideration.

3.I. Report Of City Council's Park Board Representative (Collins/Brown - 10 Minutes)

CM Collins reported on the following items: (1) a joint meeting with the Park Board is scheduled for the April meeting to discuss several items including the Stewart Beach Pavilion, and (2) the Dellanera Park Pavilion was damaged during the Winter Storm.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION (30 Minutes)

City Council convened into Executive Session at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 12:48 p.m. CM Robb declared a conflict on Item 4.A.1 Texas Railway Exchange v. City of Galveston and did not attend that portion of Executive Session. 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. Texas Railway Exchange V. City Of Galveston, In County Court Of Galveston County
(Condemnation Action)

4.B. Pursuant To Texas Government Code Section 551.072 "Deliberation Regarding Real Property" To Discuss The Purchase, Exchange, Lease, Or Value Of Real Property:

5. ADJOURNMENT

Janelle Williams, City Secretary

Date Approved:

DRAFT