

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
WORKSHOP - MAY 27, 2021**

5/27/2021 - 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: Mayor Dr. Craig Brown, Mayor Pro Tem David Collins, 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 5A, 7A, 7C, 7D, 8C, 8F, 8H, 8O, and 8X were clarified by Staff.

- 3.B. Joint Workshop With The Wharves Board To Discuss The Following Items Of Mutual Interest (Brown - 40 Minutes):

1. **Discussion of 2020 Financial Report and 2021 Budget - Port Director Rodger Rees discussed with the Council the Port's mission, goals, advantages, 2021 overview, 2021 financial summary, 2021 cargo, 2021 lay ships, return to cruising, and what cruising means to Galveston.**
2. **Update on Status of Cruise Terminal 3 - Port Director Rodger Rees provided an update on the status of Cruise Terminal 3, including: \$110 million construction project at Pier 10; 400 Texas construction jobs; 400 operations jobs; makes Galveston a national tourism destination with RCI Oasis Class ship; construction now through 2022; Stakeholder presentations planned for this summer.**
3. **Update of General Port Operations on Port Managed Properties - Port Director Rodger Rees provided an update of general Port operations, including: Galveston Wharves Green Marine Certification to be announced in June; grain, wind, fresh produce cargo is expected to remain strong; Metro's 17-acre laydown for wind components at 37th and Harborside Drive are open; the Port is continuing to advance their 20-Year Strategic Plan; and the West Port Cargo Complex will open soon.**

- 3.C. Discussion Of The Policy For Board/Commission/Committee Appointments (Robb/Brown - 15 Minutes)

This item included two proposed amendments to the Council's policy on board appointments - one from Mayor Brown and another from CM Robb. CM Robb provided information on previous changes to the Council's board appointment policy and the lack of representation from citizens from each District of the City. Her proposed amendment to the policy would give each Council Member the opportunity to make a nomination to each board. She feels the boards should represent all citizens of the City and not a special interest. She expressed concerns about the current Council ranking system stacking boards. Mayor Brown provided information on his proposed amendment which allows Council to rank the applicants. He advised they key is to communicate with all phases of our community and generate applications from all ethnic and demographic backgrounds. The Council discussed the proposed amendments to the policy.

- 3.D. Discussion Of Golf Carts, Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, And Off Highway Vehicles (Legal - 15 Minutes)

City Attorney Don Glywasky provided an overview of current regulations and proposed amendments related to golf carts. Discussion was held regarding state law provisions, funding the program with fees for registration, requiring golf carts on Seawall to drive in the right lane, differentiating between residential and commercial, driving golf carts at night, requiring head lamps and tail lamps but not allowing the operation of golf carts at night, posting fines for violating regulations, rental companies that do not follow the regulations, business owners in support of the registration fees, not allowing golf carts on the Seawall, and punishing the citizens for an issue with the rentals. Staff will be working on the ordinance and will bring back for additional Council discussion.

- 3.E. Discussion Of An Annual Registration Fee And Other Related Topics For Short Term Rentals (B. Maxwell - 30 Minutes)

City Manager Brian Maxwell reported that the local short term rental companies would like the city to provide certain services related to complaints the City receives related to short term rentals. The companies are willing to pay a registration fee for these services and will identify specific services they would like. Staff will then work on a budget and business plan that suits what they are asking for, and where the residents won't have to pay for it. Staff will bring forward some language in June for Council discussion. Discussion was held regarding how to best determine the registration fee, limiting occupancy in rentals, addressing code violations in the neighborhoods, a current lawsuit related to short term rentals, health department inspections for rentals, and liabilities for fire or other problems that may exist during a rental. The Park Board and the City are working together on this topic.

- 3.F. Discussion Of Authorizing Juneteenth As A City Holiday (Schuster/Brown - 15 Minutes)

CM Schuster brought this item forward and is requesting that the Council consider authorizing Juneteenth as a City Holiday. This item is on today's regular meeting agenda for Council's consideration.

- 3.G. Discussion Of The Process For Reporting Water Leaks To The City And How To Improve Upon The Process (Robb/Quiroga - 15 Minutes)

CM Robb placed this item on the agenda to discuss what seems to be a disconnect when it comes to how to report a water leak. If you call the water department to report a water leak, they are not the correct department that handles it, and it may or may not get to the correct department which is Public Works. Also, some people submit the leak online which never makes it to the department that handles water leaks. She would like a future agenda item to discuss the system and clarify exactly how the department works. City Manager Brian Maxwell reported that staff will be bringing a 311 system forth in the budget to resolve most of the issues. In the meantime, CM Robb requested that staff make a one-page document for citizens to follow and place it in the water bills.

- 3.H. Discussion Of Water And Sewer Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) And American Rescue Plan Grant Funding (M. Loftin - 30 Minutes)

Assistant City Manager Mike Loftin provided information on the American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$27,371,621 which was awarded to the City through the Coronavirus Local Recovery Fund. He reported that the City will be focusing on the eligible activity of making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. Grant project recommendations include: (1) Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project - \$16 million; (2) Pirates Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant - \$8.5 million; and (3) Sanitary Sewer Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Citywide - \$2.88 million. The proposed allocations will be placed on the June

Council agenda so work could proceed.

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

MPT Collins reported on the following: (1) The Park Board have sent over a Resolution favoring approval of the short term rental ordinance; and (2) this afternoon's City Council agenda includes a Resolution in support of the Park Board moving forward with the request for qualifications for a Public-Private Partnership regarding development opportunities at Stewart Beach Park.

4. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS OF COUNCIL, OFFICER BOARDS, AND CITY MANAGER

4.A. Pursuant To Texas Government Code Section 551.0415, The City Council May Report On Any Of The Following Items:

1. Expressions of thanks, gratitude, and condolences
2. Information regarding holiday schedules
3. Recognition of individuals

a. Opal Lee Day Proclamation - read by City Secretary Janelle Williams.

b. National Public Works Week Proclamation - read by City Secretary Janelle Williams and presented to Public Works Director Robert Winiecke.

c. Birth of the Texas Federal Judiciary Day - read by City Secretary Janelle Williams and presented to Federal Judge Jeffrey Brown.

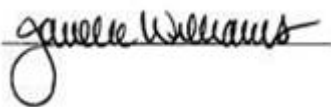
4. Reminders regarding City Council events
5. Reminders regarding community events
6. Health and safety announcement

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Claims: 21-023 - Ariel Ledesma/Efrain Perales; 21-024 - Sharon Hernandez-Subonj; 21-025 - Tim Dudley; 21-026 - Sonya Porretto; 21-027 - Victoria Cortinas; 21-028 - Sebastine Chukwu; 21-029 - Terri Valiante; 21-030 - Michael Aaron; 21-031 - CenterPoint Energy; 21-032 - Guadalupe and Carina Tovar; 21-033 - Angie Manis; 21-034 - Heydi Martinez.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.



Janelle Williams, City Secretary

Date Approved: July 22, 2021