

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
WORKSHOP - MAY 28, 2020**

5/28/2020 - Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER
With a quorum present, the workshop was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

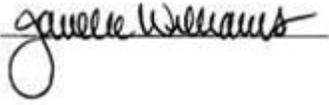
Present (via video conference): Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Craig Brown, Council Member Amy Bly, Council Member David Collins, Council Member Jason Hardcastle, Council Member John Listowski, and Council Member Dr Jackie Cole. Mayor James Yarbrough joined the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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, 9F, 9G, 9I, 9V, and 10B were clarified by Staff. Items 9P and 9Q are being pulled by Staff and will come back to City Council at the June meeting. CM Hardcastle commended the City Manager for the letter of support to Sandpiper Cove.
- 3.B. Update On Corona Virus/COVID-19 (B. Maxwell - 20 Minutes)
City Manager Brian Maxwell provided an update on COVID-19. He reported that the city trended up in cases yesterday; there is an oil platform with 75 people on it that started testing positive; we have received notice of CARES Act funding to be used for PPE and other costs associated with COVID-19; CDBG-DR money specific to COVID-19 is on today's agenda to be used for testing restaurant and hospitality industry workers (which is not mandatory), the balance of the money will be used for a tracing program, rental and mortgage assistance, and housing of the homeless population should they test positive.
- 3.C. Discuss A Draft And/Or Proposed Ordinance Amending The Code Of The City Of Galveston, Chapter 19, "Licenses, Permits And Business Regulations", To Amend, Article VI "Short Term Rentals" By Adding Regulations And Making Clarifications Pertaining To The Collection Of City Of Galveston Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT Tax).
Assistant City Manager Mike Loftin provided a HOT collection overview, and a history of hotel occupancy collections for FY2007 through the first six months of FY2020. The goal of the draft ordinance is to induce the rental companies to collect and remit local and state tax, the city to maintain access to the data, and we want them to use the Park Board's registration number to discreetly identify short term rental properties. City Attorney Don Glywasky reported on issues with the voluntary collection agreement and not being able to audit payments. He advised that payment of the hotel occupancy tax should remain the responsibility of the short term rental owner. Staff members will continue to have internal meetings and possibly meet with the short term rental association and Kay Terry at the Park Board to get additional input. This item will be placed on the June workshop agenda for additional discussion.
- 3.D. Report Of City Council's Park Board Representative (Collins/Yarbrough - 10 Minutes)
CM Collins reported on the following: hotel revenues were up over the weekend; lots of day trippers on the island; issues of trash being left behind; the City Attorney is going to review the litter ordinance; the Park Board is doing a great job cleaning up trash after the weekends; he encourages everyone to go out on Tuesday to see how clean the beaches are; he will be asking Michael Woody at the CVB to do a promotion on keeping the beaches clean and to look at how other coastal cities manage trash; and he announced that Michael Moser is retiring, and the new CFO will start in June.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Janelle Williams, City Secretary
Date Approved: June 25, 2020