

# City of Shoreacres



## MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas met in Regular Session on  
**Monday, April 26 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**  
in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 601 Shoreacres Blvd.,  
Shoreacres, Texas, with the following present constituting a quorum:

Mayor	Jayo Washington
Mayor pro tem	Dolly Arons
Alderman	Gerry Victor
Alderman	Richard Adams
Alderman	Robert Plant
City Administrator / City Secretary	David Stall

### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jayo Washington at 7:01 p.m.

### 2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & COMMENTS

#### 3.1 Citizens Comments

Anita Willis - 1009 Forest –

Ms. Willis reported that the topic of discussion on the SEACAP meeting was the Dikes in Holland and its relevance to the "Ike Dike" proposal.

Ms. Willis asked if there is any action that the City can take to reduce noise created by motorcycles in the neighborhood. The Mayor indicated that he will ask the Police Chief to address this issue.

Ms Willis pointed out that the train crossing road horn on Choate Road appears to start earlier and last longer. David Stall replied that the railroad administration governs horn usage at crossings.

Charlotte Wells - 3342 Miramar -

Harris County has post cards on how to control mosquitoes.

There are several construction sites in the city that are missing silt fencing.

There are 2 white labs that continue to run through neighborhood on a leash but running wild.

Ms. Wells expressed that she has a problem with parking on the new grass on Miramar.

Ms. Wells asked if the La Porte ISD has a permit to demolish Bayshore Elementary School, adding that there is asbestos in the building. David Stall responded that the City has not yet obtained a demolition permit and they are aware that there is asbestos in the building.

Councilman Victor questioned why security guards were posted at the Bayshore Elementary school. David Stall responded that this was due to vandalism. David Stall explained that the City owns a little less than a third of the land that the school sits on.

#### **4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - postponed**

#### **5.0 REPORTS**

##### 5.1 Council Reports

5.1.1 Jayo Washington - last Saturday, Lyondell Basell worked global care day in Circle Park. They built benches and installed trees. They also transferred a gazebo from the old Bayshore Elementary school to the new school. Mayor Washington reminded the Council and residents that the Crawfish cook off is this Saturday.

5.1.2 Richard Adams – Councilman Adams discussed the City’s participation in the La Porte Parade.

5.1.3 Dana Woodruff – Councilwoman Woodruff indicated that we may want to consider asking residents to participate in the parade in the future. Councilwomen Woodruff and Arons went to the grant workshop at HGAC and Councilwoman Woodruff is going to write up the grant for a new recycling trailer and blue recycling bins. The grant money is funded by the State. Labor and the use of our truck can be used as an “in kind” match. The total amount available is \$1.1 million dollars. The minimum amount each agency can apply for is \$10,000.

##### 5.2 Staff Reports

###### 5.2.1 City Administrator

The Refurbishing of City Hall is 95% completed. The City had to halt work during early voting. Renovations of upstairs will begin the first week in June. Staff will work downstairs while the upstairs is being painted. The downstairs will not be usable for court or council meetings while it serves as staff headquarters.

The generator has been installed and is ready for emergency backup.

The City has a number of traffic control signs being installed next week on Miramar Drive. No parking signs will go up on the waterfront side. Signs will be placed at intersections. The intent is to limit the placement of signs directly in front of a residence. We also ordered traffic stencils to place on pavement.

We received a petition to install speed bumps on Miramar. The Police Department has been advised to step up enforcement on Miramar. It was asked if we could consider using stop signs as an option to speed bumps. David Stall indicated that it is illegal to use stop signs as a speed control device. It was also pointed out that replacing the yield sign at Shoreacres Circle with a stop sign would require a traffic study by a traffic engineer. The Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services are concerned that speed bumps slow their response times. There was consensus among Council members that Council should wait and see how the additional enforcement and speed signs affect speeding before we consider speed bumps.

Five benches will be installed at Miramar Park.

People are building fires at night on rip rap at Miramar Park.

Circle Park – Activities at Circle Park include (1) installing new fixtures on poles, re-aiming lights and correcting electrical deficiencies. Lights should all be back in order by the end of May; (2)

Replacing tennis court fencing and the net; (3) Replacing trees in circle park that have died; (4) Removing some trees in the right of way around Circle Park.

Texas Dept of rural affairs has funds available, beyond those offered under the Community Development Block Grants. David Stall will be meeting to see if the City of Shoreacres can avail itself of those funds.

The City is continuing to enforce violations pertaining to dangerous buildings and the dumping of illegal fill dirt. The number of court cases being settled has increased.

Clear Wire internet service is available in Shoreacres. They have a sublease on the T-Mobile tower.

The audit is progressing and should be completed shortly.

## 6.0 BUSINESS

### 6.1 Consideration and Approval of Invoices.

Motion to approve invoices (Richard Adams/Second: Gerry Victor. Motion passed unanimously.

### 6.2 Discussion of Texas Community Block Grant (TxCDBG) project applications, projects and status.

The grants are being transferred from Harris County to the City. Riverton Law Firm is our grant administrator. Finley & Associates is our engineer. The City will now receive \$5.5 million, up from \$5.1 million. This includes funds to pay the engineer. The Riverton Law Firm is paid directly by TDRA. This will enable the City to pay for the site preparation and parking lot for the police building (\$224,000). We still have \$25,000 set aside to repair the public works building.

\$793,000 is available to complete replacement of lift station #1, (which is across the highway) lift station #3, (Westview and Sunrise) and some replacements at lift station #2 (Taylor Bayou). Most of the work is designated for lift station #1. We expect to build a separate lift station next to the existing lift station #1 and then tie in the lines.

\$1 million is available for storm drainage. This includes concrete pipe and driveways. The driveway portion comes to almost ½ of all storm drainage repairs.

The water plants include a complete rebuild of water plant #1, which is at the other side of the public works building. Two wells and the ground storage tank will be rehabilitated and buildings will be demolished.

\$18,000 is available to raise fire hydrants above base flood elevation

There are funds for a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system at water and waste water facilities. This will allow us to monitor and manage pressure and flows remotely. It will eliminate the need for weekend rounds conducted by public works. This will also provide better delivery service to the Yacht Club, which is at the end of our system.

\$2.14 million is allocated for street work, which will allow 30% of our streets to be replaced with concrete. \$270,000 is allocated to clean out and reshape ditches.

### 6.3 Consideration and action and to approve Ordinance 2010-70 authorizing an agreement with Harris County amending a prior agreement to provide for the

participation in the Harris County application and distribution of Hurricane Ike disaster Community Development Block Grant funds; and, authorizing the Mayor to execute such agreement.

There was a motion (Dana Woodruff/Second: Robert Plant) to approve Ordinance 2010-70, authorizing an agreement with Harris County amending a prior agreement. Motion Passed unanimously.

- 6.4 Consideration and action to approve resolution 2010-31 authorizing the City Administrator to sign documents on behalf of Mayor and City of Shoreacres to acknowledge and/or confirm agreement or acceptance by the City of Shoreacres as may be required for the application and distribution of Hurricane Ike disaster Community Development Block Grant funds.

The City's Grant Administrator recommended that we have these documents available so that the city would be ready to proceed at the meeting. There was a motion (Dolly Arons/Second: Gerry Victor) to adopt resolution 2010-31, pending correction of the typos, authorizing the City Administrator to sign documents on behalf of the Mayor and the City of Shoreacres pertaining to the CDBG funds. Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.5 Discussion of City's legal options concerning Bayport Container Terminal operations and the Terminal's impact on the City's future.

Councilman Victor discussed that the Port of Houston has done little to mitigate noise impacts. Councilman Victor discussed legal options, which included taking legal action against the Port, against, ships, against long shoreman and maybe against the owners of the containers. There was discussion regarding the transfer of custody from the ships to long-shoremen and the Port. Councilman Victor suggested that we obtain legal advice from 2 law firms--one to obtain information on the viability of instituting actions against the Port and one to consider viability of instituting legal action against the shipping companies and that we allocate \$20,000 to \$50,000. Councilman Victor was concerned that if we do nothing, we are going to end up losing ½ of Shoreacres.

Councilwoman Woodruff pointed out that admiralty law firms charge about \$400 an hour and requested that we have only one firm examine the viability of a law suit. She discussed "flag of convenience states", which makes suing shipping companies a federal case. Foreign shipping lines do not have all of their ships flagged in one country.

It was pointed out that a lawsuit would not be financially realistic. The City of Shoreacres sued the Corp of Engineers to prevent Bayport locating here. This lawsuit went to the Fifth circuit court of appeals and the city lost, not because of the validity of our case, but the because of the political environment.

Mayor Washington clarified that after the berm was proposed as a mitigation measure, Sylvia Garcia hired a firm to perform acoustical testing. It was determined that the foot print wasn't large enough to build it tall enough to help residents of Shoreacres. It would, however, have helped the people of Bay

Colony. Nevertheless, Bay Colony residents didn't want the berm because they thought it would destroy their breeze and their view.

There was disagreement on whether funds should be allocated at this time. It was decided that we need more information before we allocate money. Mayor Washington suggested that the City contact law firms and get their opinion on this issue.

6.6 Review, Reconsideration, withdrawal or extension of Temporary Housing Permits.

6.6.1 3520 Sunrise – The temporary housing permit expires in June 2010. The house is on track for completion.

6.6.2 418 Shadylawn - The resident is requesting an extension of the temporary housing permit. Their permit expires May 26. They are in the Harris County Recovers (HCR) progress but they have not received any additional information from HCR. It was Council's intent to have the Harris County Recover address Council at this meeting. Council indicated that they would like to have an update presented to Council on May 10th. A motion was made (Robert Plant/Second: Richard Adams) to hold this item over to May 10th for another review.

6.6.3 530 Oakdale – The owners are not as far along as they anticipated. A motion was made (Dana Woodruff/Second: Dolly Arons) to extend the permit for 530 Oakdale, permit #9, until June 30, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

6.6.4 318 Shoreacres – The elevation certificate is completed. The owners won't exceed the time limit on the permit so no action was required. There was discussion regarding the drainage from that house. David Stall indicated that a new ditch will be cut to bring water from the back of the west side of the house to the front drainage ditch. They have 30 days to complete the ditch. No action was taken.

6.7 Review reconsideration, revocation or extension of Temporary Housing Permit #02 – 506 Forest.

This temporary housing permit expires on June 30th. No action was required.

6.8 Consideration and action to name Shoreacres Citizen of the year.

The Mayor proposed nominating Anita Willis for Citizen of the year. Motion: (Robert Plant/Second: Dolly Arons) to accept the Mayor's suggestion. Motion carried unanimously.

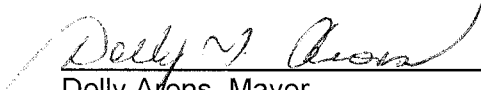
6.9 Consideration and action to name Shoreacres Employee of the year.

The Mayor proposed nominating Rhonda Basco for employee of the year. Motion: (Dolly Arons/Second: Gerry Victor) to accept the Mayors suggestion. Motion carried unanimously.

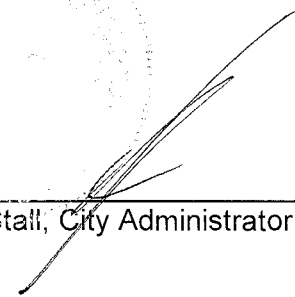
**7.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2010.

  
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Dolly Ayons, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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David K. Stall, City Administrator / City Secretary