City of Shoreacres



MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas met in Regular Session on July 12, 2010 Monday, 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 pro tem Richard Adams

Alderman Nancy Schnell

Alderman Gerry Victor

Alderman Connie Ramirez

Alderman Dana Woodruff

City Administrator / City Secretary David Stall

Absent

Mayor Dolly Arons

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem, Richard Adams at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & COMMENTS

3.3 Citizen's Comments

Darlene Bays – 616 Baywood –Ms. Bays requested that we consider budgeting money for a mosquito sprayer.

Carol Gloyna - 616 N. Shady Lane - Ms. Gloyna, a La Porte resident, expressed concerns about 627 Baywood. Mr. Stall explained that we are fighting to get this resident to remove junk cars and dead trees. David Stall indicated that the issue has been referred to enforcement.

Anita Willis – 1009 Forest Avenue – After Hurricane Ike, the City removed dirt from ditches directly near culverts. Those portions of the ditches hold water and mosquitoes are collecting there. At the Southeast corner of Sunrise and Shoreacres Blvd, there is brush that needs to be removed.

Mr. Yolvino – 214 Fairfield – Mr Yolvino asked when the 30 mph street sign would be installed on Fairfield. Mr. Stall indicated that it will be installed shortly. Mr. Yolvino has a rental house at 211 Fairfield. He gave the City a water deposit for the house in April and he is waiting for a refund. Mr. Stall indicated that it is a long cycle and takes about 3

months for refunds to be received.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – postponed

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Council Reports

- 5.1.1 Richard Adams Since the mayor was not present, Councilman Adams reported on her meeting with Michelle Hundley, POA. Ms Hundley has identified two ships that are making more noise than others. She has met with the owners to discuss noise reduction. Mayor Arons believes that this is a step in the right direction.
- 5.1.2 Connie Ramirez Councilwoman Ramirez reported that she and the Mayor attended the orientation workshop for council members and mayors. The workshop was very informative and covered different areas of responsibilities.

5.2 Staff Reports

- 5.2.1 City Administrator The City is still working on the punch list for City Hall. We still need to complete stairs and install guard rails. The City has received a full slate of quotes for replacing the air conditioner and ducts upstairs. We are considering installing a 16 to 18 SEER rated 4 ton air conditioner. The City is waiting for a response from the State on the grant money for this project. The bids for window replacement have not yet gone out for quotes. There is no change on the status of Highway 146 improvements. Engineering work has been completed for Shoreacres circle.
- 5.2.2 Police Written Report The July 4th fireworks display was successful. There was a burglary on County Club Drive. Sergeant Sam Bianchino has resigned and accepted a job with the La Porte Police Department.

6.0 BUSINESS

- 6.1 <u>Consideration and approval of Invoices</u>. Motion [Dana Woodruff/Second: Connie Ramirez) to pay our bills. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6.2 <u>Discussion of Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) project</u> applications, projects and status.
 - The CDBG contact has been signed but we don't have the contract in hand. All projects, except for the police building, are expected to start in March. The Police Building is expected to start 60 days later due to preparation of the environmental assessment.
- 6.3 Review and consider withdrawal or extension of temporary housing permit

- 6.3.1 Permit #28 229 Meadowlawn This item was on the Council agenda two weeks ago. The City attempted to contact the applicant and her daughter by phone, however no progress update has been received.
 - This permit expires August 31, 2010. The owners have not made an effort to request an extension so the permit will expire automatically. No Council action was necessary.
- 6.3.2 Permit #04 3346 Miramar The trailer is in the process of being removed and will be gone this week. The permit will expire August 13. Motion [Nancy Schnell/Second: Dana Woodruff] to extend the temporary housing permit for 3346 Miramar until August 15, 2010. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6.4 <u>Discussion of using videos surveillance to detect and deter the commission of crimes</u>

Councilwoman Woodruff discussed the potential option of installing cameras to be used for surveillance. She would like the City to find out how much it would cost to place a camera at Old 146 and Fairfield to be used by police for review if the need arises. Councilwoman Schnell indicated that she likes the fact that we don't have cameras in our city and that is what separates us from the big city environment. It was pointed out that some cameras record license plate numbers while others just monitor traffic flow. The port security district is considering installing surveillance cameras to monitor potential terrorist actions. This might provide the possibility for overlapping uses. The City should consider asking the POA if they are willing to install a camera at Fairfield and Old 146.

6.5 Discussion of residential yards, regulation and enforcement

Councilwoman Woodruff reported that un-mowed lawns in front of abandoned homes are an eye sore. There are some home owners that have been given every opportunity to clean up their yards. We need to take a more aggressive approach to enforcement, since fines aren't working. This is bringing down the value of residences in the City. It was suggested that we look into having a commercial service mow the properties. David Stall indicated that although we place liens on the land, we will never recover our costs. Council would like David Stall to review options available to pursue more aggressive enforcement.

6.6 Consideration and action to refer Ordinance 2010-68 amending residential driveway requirements to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a request for report and recommendation.

This ordinance would allow the use of pervious material in lieu of asphalt and concrete driveways. Councilman Victor stated that these types of driveways may be appropriate in one part of the City but not in another. In addition, there is no provision for neighbors to comment on whether pervious driveways are appropriate in their neighborhood. Motion [Gerry Victor/Second: Nancy Schnell] that this ordinance, 2010-68 be referred to P&Z to determine which area of the city is most appropriate for this type of driveway. Motion passed unanimously.

6.7 <u>Consideration and action to accept a proposal from Blackboard Connect to provide an emergency notification system; and, adopt Ordinance 2010-73 authorizing the City administrator to sign agreement.</u>

This item pertains to our reverse calling system. The cost is based on each phone number registered instead of the existing system, which is based on usage. Since an official ordinance was not received, it was suggested that we place this item on the agenda in two weeks.

6.8 Consideration and action to adopt Resolution 2010-40 responding to the application of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric for authority to change rates and adopt rate riders; authorizing the City to participate in a coalition of cities; authorizing the City's intervention of PUC Docket No. 38339 and related proceedings; authorizing the hiring of counsel and experts through the coalition; and, requiring the reimbursement of municipal rate case expenses.

This rate filing pertains to electricity usage. The primary concern with the rate change is that there is a mechanism, similar to the Cost of Service Adjustment (COSA) on the gas side, which allows a structured adjustment to occur between rate filings. These automatic rate increases merit the scrutiny of how this was developed. Motion: [Dana Woodruff/Second: Nancy Schnell] to accept Resolution 2010-40. Motion carried unanimously.

6.9 Consideration and action to adopt Ordinance 2010-74 denying the rate increase proposed by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., dba CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas, Texas Coast Division; authorizing participation in a coalition of cities known as Texas Coast Utilities Coalition authorizing the hiring of lawyers and rate experts; and, requiring the reimbursement of municipal rate case expenses.

This rate filing pertains to natural gas. Our primary concern is the COSA, which allows rate increases between rate filings. Increases to the natural gas rate requests are reviewed by the Railroad Commission; electric rate increase requests are reviewed by the Public Utilities Commission. The City challenged the ruling of the Railroad Commission and received a favorable ruling from the Court, however the Court's ruling is now under challenge. In order to preserve our position as we move forward through the appeal process, we need to deny the rate increase. Motion [Dana Woodruff/Second: Nancy Schnell] to adopt Ordinance 2010-74 denying the rate increase. Motion carried unanimously

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS Z3Rd DAY OF AVI-UST 2010.

ATTEST:

David K. Stall, Administrator / City Secretary