

City of Shoreacres



MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas met in Regular Session on
Monday, February 14, 2011 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:

Alderman Dana Woodruff, Alderman Connie Ramirez, Alderman Nancy Schnell, Mayor pro tem Richard Adams, Mayor Dolly Arons Absent: Alderman Gerry Victor

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dolly Arons at 7:04 p.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & COMMENTS

3.1 Citizens Comments

Mike LeCompte – 629 Oakdale – Mr. LeCompte inquired as to the list of streets and timing for repairing City streets. He was specifically interested in Oakdale. The City Administrator responded that we have conducted a ranking of streets in need of repair and have identified 24 road segments in need of repair. Seventeen segments were approved under our grant. The 400 and 500 blocks of Oakdale are on the list of streets to be repaired; however the 600 block is not. There is a second round of grants available and we expect to apply for these additional grant funds.

Mr. LeCompte has sound meters and has offered to begin testing noise levels.

Howard Dahl - 511 Baywood – Mr. Dahl inquired as to the status of negotiations with the POHA regarding sound mitigation. The Mayor indicated that she has been in communication with the POHA regarding the sound curtain on the cranes and future meetings with the POHA are scheduled.

Anita Willis – Ms. Willis indicated that the Port noise was particularly bad this past weekend. In regards to the Heavy Haul Corridor proposal, Ms. Willis suggested that we consider the potential damage to roads on Highway 146 and 225. These roads are already in bad shape. She questioned whether the roads could handle the extra weight load. Ms. Willis expressed her discontent with the operation of Harris County recovers and indicated that there still is a disconnect between what is required by the County, the State and the federal government.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for Regular Council Meeting: January 10, 2011 – Motion to approve minutes for January 10, 2011 (Richard Adams/Second: Dana Woodruff). Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes for Regular Council Meeting: January 24, 2011 - Motion to approve minutes for January 24, 2011 (Richard Adams/Second: Dana Woodruff). Motion passed unanimously.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Council Reports

5.1.1 Mayor Arons reported that Kim Riggle is no longer with Camp, Dresser & McKee, which is the consulting firm assisting Harris County Recovers (HCR) with implementing the HCR program. The new leader of the case workers is Rochelle Henderson. There are three people in the City who have selected a builder for their HCR homes. There was a contractor's fair sponsored by HCR for homeowners to meet with builders and pick out their preferred builder.

The state adopted storm water permit regulations that could have had the potential to impact the ability of Harris County continue to spray our City for mosquitoes. After several conversations with the State and Harris County, it appears that the City will be covered under Harris County's permit.

The Mayor attended the Economic Alliance Mayors Public Policy Task Force luncheon. The luncheon was advertised as a forum to communicate legislative activities to Mayors. In actuality, it was a forum for the cities, Harris County and the Community College District to express their position on state issues. The Chamber of Commerce expressed their opposition to the federal government's attempt to lower air quality standards. The Chamber of Commerce believes that air quality is good enough and does not need to be improved. The Chamber of Commerce and several cities also expressed their opposition to any type of revenue sharing. The Community College District expressed their concern about a potential reduction in funding.

With only one week's notice to submit an application, the Mayor missed the deadline to submit the global care day application.

Council has been looking for funding for the repair of the alert siren on Center Street. Lyondell is the only facility that offered to help us financially.

5.2 Staff Reports

5.2.1 City Administrator - All of the windows upstairs at City Hall will be replaced tomorrow with double pane windows. The City back-flushed the water line on Baywood in response to a resident's request to investigate low water pressure and drainage concerns on her street. Public works found 3 cut off valves on the homeowner's property. One of the valves was 80% closed, which accounted for the low water pressure. The station #2 pump was repaired so that an inspection can be conducted on the Baywood waste water line. The intersection of Shoreacres Blvd. and Highway 146 was supposed to be completed at the end of February. It is not completed as expected, but TxDOT is pouring concrete.

5.2.2 Police Department – The police department submitted their written report. In summary, there were 4 burglaries in December and 2 in January. There were 14 arrests in December and 7 in January. There were 5 instances of providing assistance to other cities in December and 13 assists in January. There were 5 animal calls in December and 1 in January.

6.0 BUSINESS

6.1 Consideration and Approval of Invoices - Motion to pay our bills (Richard Adams/Second: Dana Woodruff). Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 Discussion of Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) project applications, projects and status. Mr. Stall reported that the environmental assessments on all the projects are scheduled to be released on Wednesday. There is an over-run of \$75,000 for all projects combined, which is less than expected. The City is working to resolve easement questions for three pieces of property. One property (Lot 8 on Seagrove) is owned by the La Porte school district. After the environmental clearance is complete, the City can talk to property owners about easements.

6.3 Consideration and action to execute a rerate agreement renewing and extending the interlocal agreement with TML intergovernmental employment benefits pool for the purpose of providing certain employee benefits. This proposal pertains to employee health insurance. Our cycle does not correspond to the City's fiscal year, but our budget is adjusted annually to reflect potential increases. The city pays employee's medical and dental benefits. Rates have increased by about \$50 per employee per quarter. There is no change in cost to the employee. Motion (Dana Woodruff/Second: Connie Ramirez) to renew our contract with TML. Motion carried unanimously.

6.4 Discussion and action to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-90 amending the City's employee vacation benefits policy. The proposed changes simplify the existing vacation policy. The existing language is confusing and can result in an employee either losing vacation time or be required to use a specified amount of vacation time. The proposal does not change the amount of leave accrued. It simplifies the policy so that employees don't lose vacation time. Employees can accrue up to 240 hours of vacation time. There was a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-90 (Dana Woodruff/Second: Nancy Schnell). Motion carried unanimously.

6.5 Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2011-46 approving an investment policy pursuant to the public funds investment act; and, other related provisions. The investment policy lays out the strategy of how to keep funds liquid and specifies authorized investments. The policy has not changed from previous years. There was a motion (Dana Woodruff/Second: Connie Ramirez) to approve Resolution No. 2011-46. Motion carried unanimously.

6.6 Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2011-47 authorizing the Mayor to sign a lump sum professional services agreement with Knudson, LP, for the Gateway Project consulting services and project management. At Council's request, the Mayor worked with the Economic Alliance to finalize details of the Gateway Project sign on Shoreacres Blvd. The final design and costs were presented to Council members. One of the Council members expressed the opinion that the management costs were too large when compared to the cost of the project and requested that we obtain another bid. Mr. Stall informed Council that in Texas, we are prohibited from obtaining multiple bids for professional services; however we can reject the bid. All project funds are paid with grants from industry and HGAC and passed through the Economic Alliance. Based on the concern expressed, the Mayor requested a two

week delay to conduct negotiations with Knudson, LP to see if the costs for project management can be reduced from \$27,300. No action was taken on this item. It was requested that this item be placed on the agenda in two weeks.

6.7 Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2011-48 authorizing the Mayor to draft, sign and send a letter to state elected officials in support of the Economic Alliance, Transportation Committee, Heavy Haul Corridor subcommittee's proposed legislation to increase the allowable weight of heavy haul trucks providing such trucks met certain other requirements concurrently established through the same body of legislation. The Mayor or Councilwoman Ramirez attended all of the Economic Alliance, Transportation Committee, Heavy Haul Corridor subcommittee meetings on proposed State legislation to support increasing the weight allowance of trucks from 80,000 pounds to 100,000. Safety was a primary concern expressed by the Cities. To resolve the safety issues, trucking companies agreed to include the following provisions in the proposed legislation: (1) mandate a sixth axle for heavy haul trucks, (2) funding to local jurisdictions for road repair (3) funding to cities for increased commercial vehicle enforcement, (4) reducing the speed limit to 10 mph below the speed limit or 55 mph, whichever is less, (5) traveling only in the right lane, (6) easily identifiable stickers specifying that the truck is a heavy haul vehicle.

The Mayor pointed out that this legislation is likely to pass either this session or the next session regardless of our action, and it would be in the City's best interest to see that these provisions are included to protect City residents. Council did not believe that the provisions would adequately mitigate the City's safety concerns. Council members felt that trucking companies would not comply with the new guidelines and that the City would never see any funds for Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. The opinion also was expressed that this would benefit the POHA, and since the POHA has not taken any action to mitigate the noise they generate, the council member was opposed to taking any action that would benefit the POHA. There was a motion to oppose Resolution No. 2011-48 which would have authorized the Mayor to draft a letter in support of the proposed legislation. (Nancy Schnell/Second: Dana Woodruff). Motion carried unanimously.

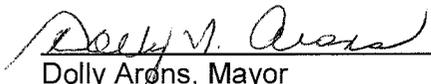
Adjournment: 9:00 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 7TH DAY OF MARCH, 2011.



ATTEST:

David K. Stall, City Secretary



Dolly Arons, Mayor