City of Shoreacres



MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas met in Regular Session on Monday, July 11, 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 Gerry Victor, Alderman Nancy Schnell, Alderman Dana Woodruff, Alderman Connie Ramirez, Mayor pro tem Richard Adams. 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

3.1 Citizen's Comments

Neil Moyer – 1118 N. Country Club Drive - Mr. Moyer thanked the City for providing access to Miramar Park for the July 4th fireworks. He pointed out that there is a considerable number of people who begin parking their vehicles on the grass as early as 10:00 am. Mr. Moyer requested that Council consider not allowing parking before 6 pm. This would allow people who are working to have access to parking. Councilman Victor suggested that perhaps we could allow parking after 4 pm instead of 6 pm. It was agreed that Council would take the idea under consideration. Councilman Victor also suggested that we consider providing Port-a-Potties. Another suggestion was provided by resident Howard Dahl. He suggested that we consider not allowing unattended vehicles.

4.0 MINUTES – No minutes were available. No action was taken.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Council Reports

Mayor Pro-Tem Adams thanked people for their participation in the July 4th parade.

5.2 Staff Reports

5.2.1 City Administrator Report

New council chairs were purchased for the council chambers.

Trees have been removed from the lot scheduled for the new police station and planted around City Hall.

There was a dramatic house fire in the city. It also resulted in multiple

grass fires.

Mr. Stall has started preparing the budget calendar. Budget meetings will be held on "off" council Mondays in August.

Mr. Stall distributed the budget planning survey for council members to use to set priorities for budget planning.

There have been rumors circulating about townhomes being constructed on Fairfield. There is no truth to this rumor and our zoning would not allow construction of the townhomes. The La Porte School District indicated that they have no immediate plans for this property.

The city is still waiting for Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) to approve use of funds for the CDBG grant for the water plant. Approval of the water plant is being delayed pending clarification of language in the environmental assessment.

Rehabilitation of the fire hydrants was dropped from the CDBG grant. (FEMA previously declined funding this project for Shoreacres, although they approved the project for the City of Seabrook.) The hydrants were dropped because TDRA requested that an environmental assessment be prepared for each fire hydrant. The cost of the assessments would have exceeded the cost of rehabilitating the hydrants. As a result, the city is now examining rehabilitating the hydrants in-house. A company has been hired to inspect the condition of the hydrants and determine flow specifications. The cost to test the hydrants is \$1800 for all 44 hydrants. The city has a complete hydrant inventory, but this will provide an independent review. If the review indicates there is lead paint, the city we will take actions to prevent contamination.

A list of Project Clean Sweep work orders was presented to Council. The city received permission to continue work, however no additional funds were provided. The city has reduced the crew from 6 to 4 people and decreased overhead expenses. Funds will likely run out October 31st unless additional money becomes available.

The flagpoles in front of City Hall have been repaired and painted. The poles around the tennis court in Circle Park are also being primed and painted.

The city did not receive any bids on the water main replacement project. Each bidder withdrew their bid because of licensing requirements for boring related to a potable water system. Mr. Stall asked the city engineer to separate the project into two sections—boring and tap connections. City staff believes that we will be able to use two separate contractors, each licensed in their respective areas, to complete their portions of the project. The city will act as the general contractor. While this will increase demands on city staff, it could reduce the overall cost of the project.

The city attorney is developing the proper forms to complete the transaction to purchase 611 Seagrove.

Engineering plans for the Gateway Project are 70% complete. The project is significantly under budget. Additional work needs to be done on the sign orientation.

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Mr. Stall updated the substantially damaged and dangerous buildings list. These buildings need to be either demolished or repaired, depending on the findings. These findings are also posted on the city's website. The city has requested that a title company prepare an abstractors report. These reports identify any liens that have been placed on the property. One property, 3406 East Country Cub, has two Internal Revenue Service (IRS) liens. Consequently, the city will need to absorb the cost of demolishing this property. The city also may need to obtain approval from the IRS to demolish the house. Mr. Stall pointed out that if the house is an IRS seizure, then U.S. Marshall's office could deny demolition of the building. Internal Revenue Service liens supersede all other liens.

5.2.2 Police Department Written Report

Mayor Pro Tem Adams summarized the highlights of the police report.

- Alarm/hang-ups went from 12 in May to 2 in June
- Arrests went from 24 in May to 14 in June. (note from Mayor: the number 24 is still in error and still has not been corrected on the tracking sheet.)
- EMS and fire calls went from 13 to 7.

5.2.3 Public Works Report / Utilities Department Report

A new report is being developed by the Public Works Director. Public Works is experimenting with a new work schedule designed to reduce overtime and improve customer service. Public Works has instituted staggered work hours, which will allow the city to have public works staff on site from 7 am to 5:30 pm. Councilman Victor requested that the report indicate the number of leaks repaired and the number of leaks that still remain.

5.3 <u>Investment Report</u>

Mr. Stall circulated the city's investment report.

6.0 BUSINESS

6.1 Consideration and Approval of Invoices

There was a motion to pay our bills (Dana Woodruff /Second: Connie Ramirez). Motion carried unanimously.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 7:56 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2011.

Dolly Arons, Mayor

ATTEST:

David K. Stall, City Secretary

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