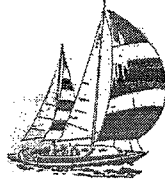


# City of Shoreacres



## MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas met in Regular Session on **Monday, September 26, 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, Mayor Dolly Arons

### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dolly Arons at 7:01 p.m.

### 2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & COMMENTS

#### 3.1 Public Hearing: Proposed FY-2011-2012 Budgets

The hearing on the budget was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Darlene Bays – 616 Baywood - Ms. Bays indicated that it is not a good idea to hold only one hearing prior to taking action on the budget. Ms. Bays stated that while she was in favor of pay raises to bring salaries up to levels in surrounding cities, she believes that the proposed salary increases are too high. She also was concerned about sustainability of the pay increases.

Hearing on the budget was closed at 7:05 pm.

#### 3.2 Citizen Comments

Neil Moyer – 1118 North County Club Drive – Mr. Moyer commented that there are packs of large dogs running through the City. Dogs have attacked people and their pets. The City should advise residents that they need to secure their pets.

Patrick Stanton – 128 Shadylawn – Mr. Stanton requested information on the pending mitigation agreement between the City and the Port of Houston. Recently, there also have been noises that sound like tank venting. Horn noises have also been heard.

Mr. Stanton indicated that he thought that the Council agreed to spend \$6,000 to rehabilitate the playground equipment. Mr. Stall responded that the City has ordered all the parts and tools necessary to disassemble the playground equipment at Circle Park. Mr. Stanton suggested placing yellow tape by the first step to prevent children from climbing up the stairs. Mr. Stanton requested that the City obtain the County's overall schedule for maintaining the County streets within our City.

Darlene Bays – 616 Baywood – Ms. Bays asked the City to consider setting aside money to help private residents replace dead trees on private property. The Mayor indicated that the Council will present additional information on this topic at the next City Council meeting.

Anita Willis – 1009 West Forest Avenue – Ms. Willis indicated that Centerpoint was tearing up the street and had not notified the City. Mr. Stall indicated that Centerpoint has the right to access their utility lines. Generally, Centerpoint informs the City of repair work, but their subcontractors do not always notify the city. She also reported on a constant rumbling noise like a marine vessel idling.

Howard Dahl – 511 Baywood – Mr. Dahl asked about the status of the circle park water leak and the schedule for getting electricity to the gazebo. Mr. Stall indicated that the City is waiting for the electrical contractor to complete the project.

#### **4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

4.1 Regular Council Meeting: August 22, 2011 - Postponed

4.2 Workshop Council Meeting: September 19, 2011 – Motion to adopt the minutes for September 19, 2011 (Richard Adams/Second: Gerry Victor). Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5.0 BUSINESS**

5.1 Council Reports:

5.1.1 Mayor Arons – report on meetings attended – The Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) is holding a meeting to discuss a report evaluating transportation, including freight trucks and pipelines. Councilwoman Woodruff indicated that she would be interested in attending the meeting.

5.1.2 Mayor pro tem Adams – Report on La Porte Health Fair and meetings attended. The La Porte Health Fair, which was held at La Porte Junior High School, was well worth it and Councilman Adams recommended that people attend in the future. National Night Out events will be held on October 4, 2011 from 5:00 – 8:30 pm in Circle Park. There will be a meeting of the Sylvan Beach restoration project committee on Tuesday, October 18, at La Porte High School. The meeting is sponsored by Jack Morman's office.

5.2 Staff Reports - City Administrator

Mr. Stall reported that four new storm workers have been added to Project Clean Sweep as a result of increased grant funds. It is expected that more work will be devoted to removing dead trees.

Information was included on the back of the utility bills to inform residents that the leash law is being enforced due to dogs running at large. The Police Department will be writing citations to residents who let dogs run at large.

The City accepted a bid for construction of the police station. The notice to proceed is effective October 3, 2011. The building should be substantially completed in March. A portable surveillance unit will be on site to monitor construction.

A "notice to bidders" was issued last Thursday for the repair of three lift stations.

The bids are due next month. The City has verbal clearance but not written clearance to go out to bid on the water plant. Streets and drainage projects have been cleared but are not eligible to be released for bid. The timing of the streets and drainage projects hinge on water plant approval.

The City is pursuing Round 2, Phase 2 grants for street and drain repair. Information should be released in October. Mr. Stall will present testimony on the methodology proposed to allocate the funds by HGAC. Councilwoman Woodruff pointed out that the State recently changed the agency that is responsible for issuing the funds, which has delayed the process.

Water main replacement – All three water lines have been replaced. Forty eight taps are scheduled for replacement in about three weeks. The architectural and engineering drawings for the public works building are nearing completion. The City is waiting for the engineer's stamp to comply with windstorm requirements.

The City is working with Harris County to transfer 250 feet of the Shoreacres median to the City so that we can proceed with the gateway sign. The County will retain responsibility to repair the storm drains beneath the median.

- 5.3 Financial Report – Mr. Stall presented the balances for the checking account, the utility fund, the Texas Community Development Block Grant funds, Certificates of Deposit and theTxPool. The total balances are approximately about \$1.8 million.

## 6.0 BUSINESS

- 6.1 Consideration and Approval of Invoices - There was a motion to pay our bills. (Richard Adams/Second: Gerry Victor). Motion carried unanimously.
- 6.2 Discussion of street repair assistance provided by Harris County Precinct 2. Commissioner Morman's office has offered to pave two of the streets in the city using County funds. The City is identifying streets in order of preference, beginning with the streets around Circle Park.
- 6.3 Consideration and action to adopt a resolution designating a representative and alternative to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) 2012 General Assembly. There was a motion (Richard Adams/Second: Dana Woodruff) to nominate Connie Ramirez as the representative and Gerry Victor as the alternate to the HGAC.
- 6.4 Discussion of proposed emergency water system improvements. – Mr. Stall discussed the information contained in the council packets regarding options to improve the water system improvements. The draft report contains seven proposed options and the final report will identify nine proposed options. We will discuss the final report at the next council meeting.
- 6.5 Discussion, consideration and action to set the schedule for the next Clean-Up Green-Up subject to available funds. The Council agreed to schedule the next Clean-Up Green-Up the weekend of November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The debris pick up will begin Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. The Cleanup will be publicized in water bills, post cards and reverse calling. The post cards will ask people to refrain from placing brush along the street before 5<sup>th</sup> of November.
- 6.6 Discussion, consideration and action by Ordinance No. 2011-102 to adopt the General Fund Utility Fund, and TxCDBG operating budgets for the fiscal year 2011/2012.

Mr. Stall indicated there the first hearing on the budget was on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Based on suggestions made at that meeting, the following changes were made to the budget. The changes included the following:

- Removal of the \$180,000 for the electronic water meter reading system, leaving \$40,000 for a pilot program.
- Increasing fire protection from \$94,480 to \$118,016 to reflect the cost increase proposed by the City of La Porte
- Increasing Emergency Management Services (EMS) from \$52,483 to \$120,291 to reflect the cost increase proposed by the City of La Porte
- Increasing salary for the police sergeant and the public works director
- Removing a duplication of costs for the public works vehicle
- Adding \$175,000 to provide funds for improvements to the emergency water system
- Adjusting hours for the part time commercial vehicle enforcement officer.

Members of Council expressed concern that the increase in the EMS rates was extremely high. Councilwoman Schnell indicated that we should have begun our negotiations with the City of La Porte several months ago. Council persons Victor and Schnell were extremely concerned about the significant salary increase to the public works director and the city administrator. Councilman Victor suggested lowering the pay raise and extending the probationary period for the public works director. Councilman Victor also expressed concern that the City was significantly dipping into the general fund savings. Councilwoman Schnell suggested postponing adoption of the budget. Councilman Victor and Councilwoman Schnell also expressed opposition to the funds allocated for a pilot program for the electronic water meter reading system.

After a highly animated discussion, there was a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-102 (Dana Woodruff/Second: Richard Adams). Motion carried 3-2, with Gerry Victor and Nancy Schnell opposed. Councilman Victor indicated that he had the right to document his reasons for his no vote. He indicated that the contribution from the General Reserve Fund is over \$500,000, which was too high.

6.7 Consideration and action to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-103 establishing the 2011 property tax rate for the City of Shoreacres.

Mr. Stall presented information and documentation for the effective tax rate submitted by the Harris County Appraisal District. The proposed rate is nearly identical to the existing rate, dropping only slightly from 82.467 cents to 82.0125 cents per 100 valuation.

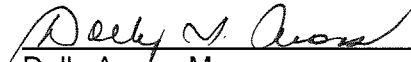
There was a motion (Dana Woodruff/Second: Gerry Victor) to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-103. The motion carried with Nancy Schnell opposed.

**7.0 ADJOURNMENT**


The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2011.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dolly Aroffs, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David K. Stall, City Secretary