City of Shoreacres



MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas, met in Regular Session on Monday, March 26, 2012 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

Dolly Arons

Mayor pro tem

Richard Adams

Alderman

Gerry Victor

Alderwoman

Dana Woodruff

Alderwoman

Connie Ramirez

Alderwoman

Nancy Schnell

City Administrator / City Secretary

David K. Stall

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dolly Arons at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & COMMENTS

- 3.1 Proclamation Motorcycle Awareness Month Mayor Arons proclaimed May 2012 to be Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month
- 3.2 Citizen Comment City Appearance & Code Enforcement, Linda Windham

3304 Sunrise - Ms. Windham relayed her concerns on various issues that she believes are negatively affecting the real estate values of homes in our City. Many residents are using the front porch, front and side yard, and driveway as permanent storage areas to keep unsightly items such as trash cans; broken yard furniture; bricks & pavers; broken gates & ladders; old tires and broken toys, etc. The storage of these unsightly items in public view are not very appealing to any potential buyer. They attract varmints and rodents and create an unsanitary living condition.

Ms. Windham understands and sympathizes with a handful of her neighbors that are still trying to get back into their homes due to red-tape surrounding the Harris County Recovers program. However, hurricane lke came through 3 years ago, and she indicated that it is time for the City officials to fully enforce the codes and ordinances that were put in place to protect the welfare and property values of its citizens.

Per Mayor Arons request, Mr. Stall clarified the City's enforcement position as it pertains to Ms. Windham's comments:

Appearance Issues - The City has codes and ordinances that are designed to
protect the "health and welfare" of its citizens. The City cannot tell a resident where
he/she can place their trash containers or that they cannot have an operable
refrigerator on the front porch. These are "appearance" issues.

- <u>Varmints and Rodents</u>: The City has codes and ordinances that are aggressively enforced in order to prohibit accumulations that may bring about unsanitary living conditions.
- Some of the <u>prohibited conditions</u> are listed below. You can also find a complete list on the City's website:

Accumulation of stagnant water

Accumulation of unwholesome matter and unsightly growth

Accumulation of paper, trash and junk vehicles

Councilman Victor commended Mayor Arons for making a strong effort to clean up the ditches and vacant lots. The City is looking better.

3.3 Citizen's Comments:

825 S. Country Club - Mr. Benedict Dugie addressed his concerns regarding standing water and street drainage in front of his house. It is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

616 Baywood - Ms. Darlene Bays suggested that Citizen's Comments regarding issues such as those expressed tonight be printed in the Shoreacres Shorts.

518 Meadowlawn - Ms. Vicki Montgomery explained that the reason that she's still living in the FEMA trailer is because of all of the red-tape surrounding the Harris County Recovers program. She's asking the citizens to be more patient and understanding.

128 Shadylawn - Mr. Patrick Stanton addressed the following:

- Mr. Stanton would like for the City to list all department names and phone numbers on the back of the water bill so the citizens would know who or what number to call for a certain situation.
- Would like an update on Planning & Zoning discussion regarding garages for homes that are built on stilts.
- Today the City's crew mowed one side of his ditch and not the other side because it
 has standing water. Asked to please remember to come back and mow the other
 side when weather permits.
- Mr. Stanton proposes that the City should set aside small projects such as painting park benches and rest-rooms for defendants that are assigned community service.
- Weeds are taking over the sides of the road on Shadylawn. You cannot see the white line on the side anymore

511 Baywood - Mr. Howard Dahl expressed his understanding of the frustration expressed by FEMA trailer residents.

3304 Sunrise - Ms. Linda Windham requested clarification regarding the time frame of permitting FEMA trailers on residential lots. Ike came through 3 years ago, and during her daily morning walk, she still sees FEMA trailers on some of the lots. Mr. Stall offered the following clarification to Ms. Windham:

After hurricane Ike, the Shoreacres City Council passed an authorization that
allowed the owner of an uninhabitable dwelling to place a trailer for the purpose of
temporary housing during construction, reconstruction, or repair of the damaged
habitation for a period of 18 months. Some homeowners were granted an extension
provided that they document to Council their continuing progress of either
constructing a new house or repairing an existing house. Originally there were 27

permits issued. Today we are down to 5. Once the new home construction or repairs is complete, the trailer will need to be removed.

616 Baywood - Ms. Darlene Gamble would like for Council to consider purchasing a mosquito sprayer and not have to rely on Harris County.

128 Shadylawn - Mr. Patrick Stanton suggested that Council ask Harris County Recovers to come to our meeting to provide us with an update.

1009 Forest - Anita Willis gave an update on the SEACAP meeting that she attended on March 14.

- Injuries are up at surrounding chemical plants.
- Cathy Culpepper at Styrolutions advised that they had another merger and their name had changed from INEOS-Nova to Styrolutions. That's 3 name changes in the last 3 years.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Regular Council Meeting: February 27, 2012 - postponed

5.0 REPORTS

- 5.1 Council Reports
- 5.1.1 Mayor Arons No new items to report
- 5.1.2 Mayor pro tem Adams Last month, Mr. Adams submitted a Shoreacres Beautification proposal to Lyondell Bassell under their Global Care Day sponsorship program. The proposal was accepted and on April 14, Lyondell Bassell will help with clean-up and landscaping various areas of the City, such as the Shoreacres brick wall at Old Hwy 146; the flower bed under flag pole in front of City Hall; and painting benches & gazebo at Circle Park. Mr. Adams thanked Ms. Diane Victor for her guidance in choosing various plants and flowers for this project.

Councilman Adams also attended the mural unveiling at Morgan's Point.

5.2 Staff Reports

5.2.1 City Administrator

The City has 2 LEPC community sirens/speakers, One is located at Sunrise and Shore Acres Blvd. The other used to be at Centre & Shore Acres Blvd. This siren has not been working so it was removed and a new solar power siren was placed at Taylor Bayou.

This afternoon lift station #1, went down completely due to a pump failure. The City brought in an emergency bypass pump to use until it can replace/repair the pump in the next few days.

The City has installed approximately 30 blue hydrant markers in the middle of the street which indicates to the fire department the location of fire hydrant.

The City is continuing its enforcement actions. Updates can be found on the City website under the tab labeled Code Enforcement Activity. You will be able to view violations of City ordinances, which are now in the hands of the City Attorney. The web page is updated at least weekly.

Progress Report: Gateway project (entrance monument) - The flag pole has been erected and we are working on getting the electricity and radio equipment installed.

Police station construction is moving forward as planned. The tentative move in date is May 4.

Replacement of sewer Lift Station #1 is way ahead of schedule. We are very close to having the plumbing finished.

Construction crews are working 6 days a week on the streets and drainage improvements project.

Demolition is complete and Water Plant #1 is ready for construction.

The School District does not have any contested positions and the college District only has an election every other year. Therefore the City will be the only one of the three jurisdictions holding an election this year.

- 5.3 Monthly Financial Report Mr. Stall reported on the Cities fund balances.
- 6.0 BUSINESS
- 6.1 Consideration and approval of invoices. There was a motion to pay our bills (Dana Woodruff/Second: Nancy Schnell). Motion carried unanimously.
- **7.0 ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF APRIL, 2012

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To the second se	Dolly Arghs, Mayor
ATTEST:	
David K. Stall, CTM, City Secretary	