

City of Shoreacres



MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas, met in Regular Session on
Monday, January 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 601 Shore Acres Blvd., Shoreacres, Texas
with the following present constituting a quorum:

Mayor	Dolly Arons
Mayor pro tem	Richard Adams
Alderswoman	Dana Woodruff (absent)
Alderswoman	Connie Ramirez
Alderman	Matt Webber
Alderman	Steven Jones
City Administrator / City Secretary	David K. Stall

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

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

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Regular Council Meeting November 26, 2012 – There was a motion to approve the regular November 26, 2012 Council Meeting minutes. (Richard Adams / Second: Matt Webber). Motion carried unanimously.
- 4.2 Regular Council Meeting December 10, 2012 – There was a motion to approve the regular December 10, 2012 Council Meeting minutes. (Matt Webber / Second: Connie Ramirez). Motion carried unanimously.

5.0 COUNCIL REPORTS & REQUESTS

- 5.1 Mayor Arons and City Administrator, David Stall, attended a Mayor's meeting hosted by the Economic Alliance Port Region. The main topic was retaining local control over the appointment of commissioners to the Port of Houston Authority in light of state legislation.
- 5.2 Mayor pro tem Adams attended the La Porte Plant Manager's meeting at the Monument Inn. Mr. Adams also attended Commissioner Mormon's lecture at UHCL where he gave a brief overall presentation of major future projects such as:

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- Construction of a new Beltway 8 bridge to accommodate the Port's increased truck traffic.
- Expansion of the Highway 146 South project - widening of Red Bluff road to 8 lanes and the construction of a new Kemah bridge. The projects are estimated to cost around \$400 million.

Mayor Arons closed the regular Council meeting at 7:05 p.m.

6.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

6.1 Public Hearing – Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation to City Council and proposed Ordinance No. 2013-135 amending residential garage requirements for houses elevated on piers.

Mayor Arons opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

The proposed Ordinance No. 2013-135, is posted on the City website at www.cityofshoreacres.us. A summary of the proposed Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation is as follows.

The area under an elevated single-family dwelling may satisfy the "fully enclosed" requirement for garages in this section, provided:

1. The area used as a garage is enclosed on all four sides by walls and doors, two of which shall have no door openings;
2. Each side of the enclosure is at least 80% opaque.
3. The entire floor of the garage area is paved with concrete.
4. A minimum unobstructed height of 7 feet is provided throughout, and,
5. The garage area under a single-family dwelling shall be excluded in the determination of "aggregate area" under Section 74-160(a)(3) - Accessory Buildings.

Mayor Arons opened the floor to Public Comments. No comments were provided.

Mayor Arons closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor Arons re-convened the City Council meeting at 7:09 p.m.

6.2 Citizen's Comments:

511 Baywood - Mr. Howard Dahl attended the SEACAP meeting and reported the following:

- A TxDOT representative reported on the status of the Bayou Forest sound wall project. It is currently on hold due to the newly discovered wetlands in the area requiring a new permit.
- The POHA is proceeding ahead with the "widening and deepening" channel project.
- Ship and vessel traffic is expected to increase by 5%.
- The POHA does not anticipate ordering any new cranes for Bayport in the near future.

- There are many personnel changes at POH headquarters and Roger Gunther is our current contact for any POHA issues.

6.3 Darlene Bays – Dead trees: Ms. Bays stressed her concern regarding the large number of dead trees on vacant lots inside our City. The dead trees are not only unsightly, but they can cause casualty to human lives and property damage if they fall. Ms. Bays requested that the City take action toward property owners with dead trees and dilapidated houses.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1 City Administrator – Mr. David Stall reported on the following:

7.1.1 General Activity:

Mr. Stall responded to Ms. Bays' concerns regarding dead trees:

- Dead trees are a continual issue in the City. The City process pertaining to dead trees is outlined below:
 - (1) The Public Works Department handles dead trees in the City's right-of-way.
 - (2) CenterPoint is responsible for dead trees in utility easements on private property. CenterPoint is the sole decision maker on whether or not to cut down a dead tree.
 - (3) Property owners are responsible for removing dead trees on their property. The City notifies the owner by mail when a tree needs to be removed. If the property owner does not take corrective action, a municipal citation will be issued.
- Mr. Stall attended the meeting of the Economic Alliance. Exxon Mobil gave a very impressive presentation on future energy production and the cost of energy and natural gas.
- The Contractor is modifying the electrical system at Water Plant #1 to comply with CenterPoint's requirements.
- Last week there was a house fire on Fairfield that was attributed to a lightning strike. The La Porte Fire Department responded and was assisted by Officer Thompson, Sergeant Cantu and Chief Newman. Thanks to their quick actions, the damage was kept to a minimum. Our Officers should be commended.
- Mr. Stall attended the TxDOT pre-construction meeting of the sound wall. TxDOT indicated that 90% of the environmental assessment is complete. However, they ran into a glitch with AT&T's phone lines which will need to be relocated. This is delaying construction of the sound wall.

7.1.2 First Monday Heavy Pick-up report:

In December and January, our contractor spent eight hours completing the heavy haul pick up. The City is in the process of looking at offering a one-time tire collection. Additional information will be provided as more information becomes available.

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- 7.2 Police Department Report: Chief Newman reported on the following:
- Several reports were filed regarding credit card fraud. We are asking residents to carefully monitor their credit card statements for any unusual transactions.
 - It was a very quiet New Year's Eve, probably due to the poor weather.
 - Traffic citations were down in December.
 - Chief Newman introduced our newest Officer, Wayne Thompson. Officer Thompson joined the department on December 29, 2012. He is a Master Peace Officer, a Certified Firearms Instructor and a Police Trainer. Officer Thompson will be assigned to the day shift when his field training is complete.

- 7.3 Public Works Report:
- The number of water line breaks are down.
 - Crews are working on fire hydrant preventive maintenance and locating water meters on vacant lots.
 - The mowing schedule is back on track.

7.4 Monthly Financial Report:

General Fund balance	\$167,369.01
Utility Fund balance	\$ 22,757.29
Service Deposit balance	\$130,056.67
TxCDBG Fund balance	\$104,706.38
TexPool Interest	\$ 90.03
Property Tax collected as of December 2012	\$497,194.84
General Sales Tax collected from Oct. to Jan. 2013	\$ 20,400.62
Road Maintenance Sales Tax collected from Oct. to Jan. 2013	\$ 5,100.15

8.0 BUSINESS

8.1 Consideration and approval of invoices.

There was a motion to pay our bills (Matt Webber / Second: Richard Adams). Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Discussion and possible action regarding the expiration of Hurricane Ike temporary housing permits issued under Ordinance No. 2010-58 that were to be removed on December 31, 2012.

8.2.1 Permit #06 – 1009 West Forest:

There was a motion to extend temporary housing Permit #06 - 1009 West Forest to February 11, 2013 (Matt Webber / Second: Steven Jones). Motion carried unanimously.

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8.2.2 Permit #10 – 126 Oakdale:

There was a motion to extend temporary housing Permit #10 - 126 Oakdale to April 8, 2013 (Matt Webber / Second: Connie Ramirez). Motion carried unanimously.

8.2.3 Permit #13 – 518 Meadowlawn:

There was a motion to extend temporary housing Permit #13 - 518 Meadowlawn to April 8, 2013 (Richard Adams / Second: Matt Webber). Motion carried unanimously.

8.3 Consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2013-135 amending residential garage requirements for houses elevated on piers.

Information was presented, however Mayor Arons requested that any action be postponed until the next Council meeting.

8.4 Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2013-102 authorizing the City Administrator to purchase one (1) police vehicle through the cooperative purchase program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Mayor Arons requested that this item be postponed to the next Council meeting to allow for review of the budget.

8.5 Consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2013-132 ordering the City of Shoreacres 2013 City Officers' Election; designating election precincts and polling places; providing for the use of voting machines; appointing election officials; providing for method and dates of early voting; providing for an early voting ballot board; providing for return and canvass of votes of said election; providing for notice; and, providing for filing deadline.

There was a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2013-132. (Richard Adams / Second: Matt Webber). Motion carried unanimously.

8.6 Consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2013-133 placing a proposition on the 2013 Regular Annual Election ballot to vote for or against the reauthorization of a local sales and use tax in the City of Shoreacres at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to provide revenue for the maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

There was a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2013-133. (Matt Webber / Second: Connie Ramirez). Motion carried unanimously.

8.7 Consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2013-134 designating the official City newspaper.

There was a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2013-134, to designate the Houston Chronicles as the official City newspaper. (Matt Webber / Second: Connie Ramirez). Motion carried unanimously.

8.8 Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2013-103 urging the State Legislature to continue local control and appointment of commissioners to the Port of Houston Authority.

After discussion, there was a motion to approve Resolution No. 2013-103. (Matt Webber / Second: Connie Ramirez). Motion carried 3 to 1 with Councilman Jones opposing.

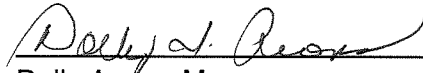
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9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

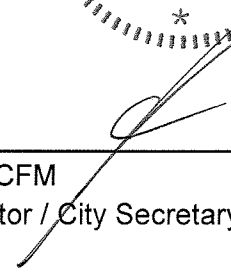
PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.





Dolly Arghs, Mayor

ATTEST



David K. Stall, CFM
City Administrator / City Secretary