

City of Shoreacres



MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas, met in Regular Session on **Monday, December 9, 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	Matt Webber
Mayor pro tem	Rick Moses
Alderman	Steven Jones
Alderwoman	Nancy J. Schnell
Alderman	Bo Bunker
Alderman	Mike Wheeler

City Administrator / City Secretary David K. Stall

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

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

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

3.1 Harris County Sheriff's Office – Proposal to provide law enforcement services in place of the Shoreacres Police Department.

Sheriff Garcia proposed a "contract deputy program" that would be specially designed for the City of Shoreacres. The program would operate under an 80/20 deputy time sharing system (80% city and 20% county). Furthermore, Sheriff Garcia stated that even operating under an 80/20 time share system, he does not foresee that the City would ever being without at least one deputy.

Other items of interests during the Q&A session:

- Capital costs would be eliminated such as new vehicle expenses, radios/scanners upgrade or purchase, etc.
- Operating costs would be a fixed amount.
- Contract would be reviewed annually in March. Increase of contract costs are set by the Commissioner's Court. Contract agreement is between the City and Commissioner's Court. HSCO only manages the contract.
- The HCSO would assign a security coordinator to the contracted community. Therefore, all communication would be between the security coordinator and the city administrator.
- Current Shoreacres officers could apply for employment with HSCO. Possibility of a lateral move but no guarantee.

- All deputies are first responders trained but not all vehicles have AED unit on board.
- There was a suggestion of getting competitive proposal from Harris County Constable's Office.
- Sheriff Garcia affirmed that in his experience, assigned deputies that work these contracts become part of the communities that they serve.
- Bo Bunker asked "If the Sheriff's department has contracted services with any other municipalities that have a standing police department like Shoreacres?"

Sheriff Garcia responded "No, Shoreacres will be the first municipality."

- Potential of having more resources available for our city.
- There was also concerned that the crime rate might go up and suggestions to look at other resources to cut costs beside the police department.
- Nancy Schnell asked Interim Chief Massey for his input/comments regarding the discussion at hand:

Interim Chief Massey stated that he was caught off-guard on the discussion of contracting police services with the Sheriff's Department. He requested that all future negotiations or discussions should include members of the department that are affected; those employees might have cost cutting ideas that are valuable but weren't asked. Furthermore, Massey went on to re-affirm that he did not articulate in any fashion to disband the police department and/or contract with the Sheriff's Department in his report to Council. He stated that it is a worthy exercise but premature to look for outside contracting. He also questioned the timing of the discussion because we are currently in the process of hiring a Chief of Police. Massey is firmly against the contracting idea and is leery for the City of Shoreacres to be the first municipality to undertake this process.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Regular Council Meeting November 25, 2013. Rick Moses moved to approve the November 25, 2013 Regular Council Meeting minutes; seconded by Mike Wheeler. Motion carried unanimously.

5.0 COUNCIL REPORTS & REQUESTS

- 5.1 Mayor Webber – Report on meetings attended.
There were no items to report.

6.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 6.1 Citizen's Comments:

Ms. Darlene Gamble Bays – 616 Baywood: Ms. Bays requested for Council member to represent the city at various inter-city functions.

Mr. Gerry Victor – 3346 Miramar: Mr. Victor asked about the status of water plant #1. He noted that there were two house fires in the past two years and there were system failures in fire response.

Mr. David Jennings – 1017 W. Forest: Mr. Jennings pointed out that the city requested two new public works vehicles in the first budget round, then it was reduced to one in the second, then the request was eliminated and public works was given a Ford Expedition to use with some minor refurbishing. The Expedition has not moved in the last three months, so clearly it was not needed. Why was a new vehicle purchase ever proposed when it was clearly not needed?

Ms. Dana Woodruff – 3534 Miramar: Ms. Woodruff commended Public Works and Administrative staff for putting on a very festive Christmas dinner and hayride for the children.

Ms. Charlotte Wells – 3342 Miramar: Ms. Wells discussed the “Ike dike” and the recent centennial gate to protect from future storms. She suggested for Council to be proactive and learn more about it. She stated that there was a rumor that our City Administrator was approached by FEMA about a buyout of homes on Miramar and asked if Council had any information about it.

Mr. Gerry Victor – 3346 Miramar: Mr. Victor stated that he was familiar with FEMA buyout and he had given the information to the previous Mayor and there was no action taken.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1 City Administrator Report: There was no report as Mr. Stall was away on city business.

7.2.1 Monthly Police Department report.

Interim Chief Massey requested that if Council is seriously considering contracting police services, he urged them to do it quickly. Stop the interview process for the Chief of Police until a final decision has been made whether to go with the county, because (1) it would be more counterproductive; (2) it would be unfair to the candidates/applicants and citizens. He also suggested for Council to survey the citizens for their opinions.

Nancy Schnell and Rick Moses extend their appreciations to all of our officers for going above and beyond their call of duty to provide excellent services to our citizens.

David Jennings request for clarification on a comment made by a citizen earlier that "on Monday, the city is unmanned during the hours of 3 p.m. to 11 p.m." is this true? Massey responded that "it is incorrect, we have a reserve officer scheduled to cover the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift on Monday."

7.2.2 Report & recommendation for speed control on S. Country Club Dr.

Due to Councilman Bunker's illness, this item will be presented at the next meeting.

7.3 Monthly Public Works Department report.

Mr. Sutton's reported that water purchase dropped this month to 5.6 million gallons compared to October purchase of 6.5 million gallons. Our staff will be attending classes in December, to keep current with licensing requirements by TCEQ.

Recycling will be moved to Monday until after the holidays.

8.0 BUSINESS

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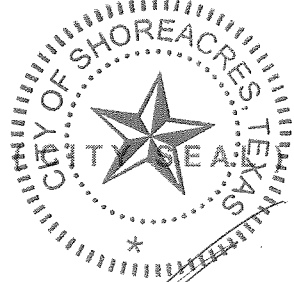
8.1 Consideration and approval of invoices

Nancy Schnell moved to pay our bills; seconded by Rick Moses. Motion carried unanimously.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 13TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2014.



Matt Webber, Mayor

ATTEST:

David K. Stall, CFM
City Administrator / City Secretary