

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON  
WORKSHOP - FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

2/20/2019 - Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

**With a quorum present, the workshop was called to order at 8:05 a.m.**

2. ROLL CALL

**Present: Mayor James Yarbrough, Mayor Pro Tem Craig Brown, Council Member David Collins, Council Member John Listowski, and Council Member Jackie Cole. Council Members Amy Bly and Jason Hardcastle arrived at 8:08 a.m.**

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.A. Discuss Proposed Transfer Of The City's Arts & Historic Preservation Program To The Park Board And Funding Options (Brown/Yarbrough - 45 Minutes)

**MPT Brown advised the Arts & Historic Board allocates money to non-profit organizations that make applications to their board. There is 6/8 of a penny that is allocated to the program annually which is about \$1.5 million. The board allocates money to the organizations for support of events and fore marketing purposes. Today's discussion is to consider moving these allocations to the Park Board. Dr. Brown advised of two reasons the Council might consider moving this function to the Park Board. (1) The Park Board already allocates HOT funds to organizations and has the expertise to evaluate marketing programs and making sure the money is used appropriately. (2) If this idea has merit how much in funds should be transferred to the Park Board? If the City keeps a portion it could be used for other HOT related projects like public art, historic preservation, and other projects. If the City sent 4/8 of a penny and the Park Board could come up with 2/8 for the program that would make 6/8 of a penny. This gives the City an expansion of the HOT funds and provides more flexibility. If Council feels the idea has merit, then discussion could be held on funding options. The Park Board is meeting to discuss on their February 26th agenda and would like to know how much the City would contribute. The concept has been presented to the Arts & Historic Board and the Park Board. Those boards did not vote on this item but consensus was supporting. CM Collins advised he is supportive of this notion but would like the City to retain a portion of the money for other projects. He expressed concerns that the smaller organizations might lose some of their funding. Dr. Cole advised she does not have a problem with sending this program to the Park Board, but expressed concerns about taking money from this program which supports our local non-profits when all of the City's remaining HOT money is spent on the trolleys. She would like to see where the money is going before she makes a decision on how much money to send to the Park Board. MPT Brown advised the Trolley Committee has the data that Dr. Cole is requesting. Mayor Yarbrough advised the Park Board is better equipped to manage this activity. The purpose of the transfer is to align duties and management of assets, and to get activities where it makes more sense. City Manager Brian Maxwell will circulate the budget for trickle down so the Council can look at the details, the audit once it is available, details on the 1/8 penny that the city keeps, and the Trolley Committee report.**

3.B. Discuss The City's Nuisance Ordinance And Enforcement (Brown/Yarbrough - 60 Minutes)

**Dr. Brown provided information on the City's notification process for code enforcement violations for high grass. He advised the violator gets an initial 10-day letter for the first violation, but does not get an additional letter for future violations. Staff has made some changes to make it clear that subsequent notices will not be sent for additional violations within a 12-month period. The appeal process has also been clarified in the letter.**

3.C. Discuss Timeline/Deadlines For Building Permits (Brown/Yarbrough - 45 Minutes)

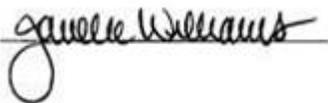
**Dr. Brown reported an issue with the current process for dilapidated structures. When the**

Code Enforcement Department sends a letter to a property owners related to a dilapidated structure, a building permit may be obtained which stops the Code Enforcement activity. The City currently issues perpetual building permits so the structure can sit for months or years with no progress. Discussion was held regarding possible solutions including the requirement of renewing building permits in six months, following up on permits after a period of time and check percentage of completion, and requiring the permit holder to submit a plan of action with a timeline. Staff will look into options and bring back to Council at the April workshop.

- 3.D. Discuss Size Requirements For Planned Unit Developments (PUD's) (Collins/Yarbrough - 30 Minutes)  
**CM Collins reported on issues with the lot size for PUD's. Tim Tietjens reported that staff's recommendation during the LDR process was at least an acre, Planning Commission recommended half an acre, and the Chamber of Commerce was evaluating this requirement as well and came back with a 5,000 square feet recommendation, and Council finally decided on 10,000 square feet. He advised that PUD's are more intended for planned development, essentially meeting requirements of the underlying zoning and city code with some give and take but is not meant to be used as a variance. Discussion was held regarding the Council's ability to place conditions on a PUD, and keeping requirements the same until the zoning maps are scrutinized and modified.**
- 3.E. Receive And Discuss A Briefing On The Proposed Bill At The State To Limit Tax Increases To 2.5% (Cole/Yarbrough - 20 Minutes)  
**Assistant City Manager Mike Loftin provided a copy of City Manager Brian Maxwell's written testimony to the Texas Senate Commission on Property Tax that shows the effect over time. He provided information that may have a direct impact on Galveston.**
- 3.F. Receive And Discuss An Update On The City Hall Remodel (Yarbrough - 15 Minutes)  
**Mayor Yarbrough reported that plans have changed for the City Hall remodel in light of the recent CDM settlement. City Manager Brian Maxwell advised that staff will be focusing on public safety issues, including sprinkling the building and adding restrooms on every floor. The other work including moving Council Chambers to the first floor and putting in a visitor's center/City of Galveston history area on the first floor is being postponed but could be done in the future by issuing some debt. The Fire Station should open in July, and the Annex should be demolished in August or September.**
- 3.G. Update On City Code Review Process (Yarbrough - 15 Minutes)  
**Assistant City Attorney Donna Fairweather provided a tentative schedule for Council's review of the City Code.**

4. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



Janelle Williams, City Secretary  
Date Approved: April 25, 2019