

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON  
WORKSHOP - JUNE 27, 2019**

6/27/2019 - Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

**With a quorum present, the workshop was called to order at 8:02 a.m.**

2. ROLL CALL

**Present: Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Craig Brown, Council Member David Collins, Council Member Jason Hardcastle, and Council Member Dr. Jackie Cole. Council Member John Listowski arrived at 8:03 a.m.; Council Member Amy Bly arrived at 8:05 a.m.**

**Absent: Mayor James Yarbrough.**

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.A. Interview Applicants For The Park Board (Yarbrough)

**The Council interviewed Park Board Applicant Joanie Steinhaus.**

3.B. Clarification Of Consent And Regular City Council Agenda Items - This Is An Opportunity For City Council To Ask Questions Of Staff On Consent And Regular Agenda Items. (30 Minutes)

**Items 8B, 10A, 10B, 11C, 11G, 11K, 11L, 11O, 11R, 11S, and 11U were clarified by Staff.**

3.C. Receive And Discuss An Update On Park Board Projects (Brown/Yarbrough - 45 Minutes)

**Park Board Chair Spencer Priest provided an update of Galveston Park Assets. He reported the following: (1) the Park Board hired a new Superintendent, Dan Gundrum, with extensive amusement park experience; (2) Seawolf Park demolition was submitted to FEMA in October 2018 and the facility is now under 'historic review' with no update as of May; (3) the Park Board has submitted an alternate project request to extend the fishing pier at Seawolf Park to increase fishing capacity and increase profitability; (4) University of Texas San Antonio School of Architecture will look at components of the Seawolf Park Master Plan this summer for visioning; and (5) Park and Amenities is reviewing opportunities regarding free access to Seawolf Park for residents while continuing to look for additional revenue streams.**

**Updates on the following items were provided:**

**Stewart Beach Drainage - (1) Atkins Engineering firm was retained to finalize the engineering and bidding documents for the east side of the Park and those plans will be 'construction ready' by the end of the summer; (2) \$300,000 was included in the 2019-2020 budget for road and ditch improvements; (3) To date, the Park Board has invested \$563,000 in developing the drainage solutions mostly through awards from State and Federal funding for oil spill compensation; and (4) In the coming year, staff will be working to obtain additional grant funding for the larger drainage investments that are required, such as elevation of the beach template proper.**

**Stewart Beach Pavilion - (1) To date, the Park Board has spent \$170,000 on design and programming work for the pavilion; (2) Trustees voted to move forward on contracting with the architects on the pavilion project to "right size" the pavilion, consider alternative siting options, design satellite bathroom and amenity mobile units and hold special planning sessions with City of Galveston staff; (3) Staff has planted 25 new palm trees at the entrance, installed new A/C, WIFI and electricity equipped toll booths, and purchased and installed a new point of sale system; and (4) Next's year's workplan will include mandates to begin a**

capital campaign for funding and to start conversations with potential private sector partners interested in lease opportunities.

**Update on Partnerships with the City of Galveston and Port of Galveston - (1) The Park Board and City staff have worked to finalize the Interlocal agreement, and hope to bring Council an agreement for approval during the July meeting; (2) the Park Board has agreed to expansion of the boundaries for beach management funding, approach to rebuild projects or alternate projects for FEMA resources allocated to the Parks, sharing of purchasing and equipment resources, and a strategy to increase the cost recovery of the Park Board managed facilities to generate excess revenues; (3) the Park Board will be bringing forward a small capital project at Seawolf park that is forecasted to generate an additional \$300,000 in revenues; and (4) Their goal is to make the Park Board revenue generating parks net positive in order to support other public spaces in Galveston.**

**Future Plans with Community Partners - (1) the Park Board hopes to conduct cooperatively with the City and Vision Galveston a “resident sentiment survey” and market study of the accommodation sector to better understand community concerns and market forces; (2) The Trustees and committees are actively engaged in the roll out of the Port of Galveston Master Plans; (3) they believe Galveston is in a position to dictate the terms of engagement and ensure that it is not only a win for the companies that come, but for the City as well; and (4) they expect to have a joint meeting with the Port at the end of July to discuss opportunities.**

3.D. Discussion Of The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget (B. Maxwell - 1 Hour)

**Assistant City Manager Mike Loftin presented information on the Budget Schedule, Forecast Overview for the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2020, General Fund strategic funding issues, health benefits funding and plan options, and other FY 2020 budget issues. Discussion was held regarding the tax rate cap adopted by the State Legislature, the 8% infrastructure set aside fund, a two cent tax increase to fund a 2% COLA for public safety not currently funded in the FY 2020 budget, and health fund issues.**

3.E. City Code Review (Legal - 45 Minutes)

**City Council and staff reviewed Chapters 1 and 2 of the City Code.**

**The City Council took a short break at 10:37 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.**

3.F. Legislative Changes

3.F.1. Permit Fees (T. Sukup - 20 Minutes)

**Todd Sukup provided Council with information on legislative changes related to building permits. This item will be brought back to Council in July on the workshop and regular meeting agenda.**

3.F.2. Open Meetings/Open Records Legislation (Cole/Yarbrough - 15 Minutes)

**City Attorney Don Glywasky and Sally Bakko provided Council with information on open government/open meetings act bills passed by the 86th Legislature and signed by the Governor.**

3.G. Discuss The Costs For Public Information Requests (Cole/Yarbrough - 20 Minutes)

**Dr. Cole reported that she wanted Council to look at the city's policies, state law, and how much public information requests cost. She does not want the cost of public information requests to become a pay wall to keep people from getting information they want from their government. State allows the city to charge but we are not required to charge. City Secretary Janelle Williams provided statistical data from 2018 showing the number of requests received and the number of requests where fees were assessed. Chief Information Officer Hope Dean provided information on fees for IT searches involving programming, labor, and computer resource charges. City Attorney Don Glywasky reported that the city cannot**

**waive fees for local residents and businesses but charge out-of-town requestors. All requestors must be treated equally. Discussion was held regarding possible consequences that may result from not charging for information requests. Council's sentiment was that staff should continue charging fees for public information requests, when applicable.**

- 3.H. Discuss A Modification To The Land Development Regulations For Article 5, Signage (Brown/Yarbrough - 15 Minutes)

**Historic Preservation Officer Catherine Gorman provided information on name plate signs. These signs are used for identification purposes only and no permit is required. The Short Term Rental Association of Galveston (STROAG) expressed concerns about name plate signs on short term rentals which can detract from residential neighborhoods. The proposed modification to the LDR's include restrictions for name plate signs.**

- 3.I. Transit Items

**Transit Items were deferred.**

3.I.1. Receive And Discuss An Update On FlixBus USA (G. McLeod - 15 Minutes)

3.I.2. Receive And Discuss An Update On Island Transit (R. Beverlin - 20 Minutes)

#### 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

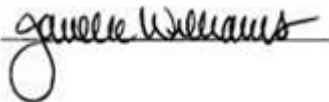
**The City Council convened into Executive Session at 12:42 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 1:30 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.**

- 4.A. Pursuant To Texas Government Code Section 551.072 "Deliberation Regarding Real Property" To Discuss The Purchase, Exchange, Lease, Or Value Of Real Property:

4.A.1. A Parcel Of Real Estate Located Within The City Limits Of Galveston

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

**The workshop was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.**



Janelle Williams, City Secretary  
Date Approved: August 22, 2019