

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
HITCHCOCK CITY COMMISSION
HITCHCOCK CITY HALL
7423 HIGHWAY 6, HITCHCOCK, TEXAS
July 15, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Mayor Strickland, Commissioners Fard Abdullah, Chris Armacost, and Mark Cook

Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Marie Gelles, Assistant City Secretary Janie Avila, City Attorney Kyle Dickson, Water Plant Operator Otis O'Callaghan

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Invocation

Pastor Michael Adams gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

We all recited the pledge of allegiance.

Citizen Comments:

PLEASE NOTE: Public comments and matters from the floor are limited to 3 minutes in length. If you would like to request to speak, please do so in advance of the meeting by filling out a Request to Address Commission form. All in attendance are required to remove hats and/or sunglasses (dark glasses) during meetings and to also silence all cell phones and electronic devices.

Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than to individual commissioners or staff. Speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes to speak. Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane, or slanderous remarks will be given a warning before losing the privilege to speak or may be removed from the room. Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells, and similar demonstrations/distractions will not be permitted. No placards, banners or signs will be permitted in the Chambers or in any room in which the Commission is meeting. In accordance with the Texas State Open Meetings Act, the City Commission is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda.

As authorized by Section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, the Presiding Officer may direct a City Official to make a statement of specific factual information in response to an inquiry made by a member of the public or the City Commission or a recitation of existing policy in response.

Comments were made by:

Louis Cascarelli – 106 Wedgewood – Constant subdivision flooding since Harvey.

Dorothy Childress – 5501 Ghinaudo – Audit issues, Ordinances and Impact fees needed and paying the employee personnel the overtime that needs to be looked into.

Consent Agenda Items:

All consent items listed are considered to be routine by the City Commission and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items, unless a Commission Member so requests, and if such a request is made, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in a normal sequence on the agenda.

- (A) Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated June 10, 2019.
- (B) Approval of the Fiscal Year 2019 Revenue and Expense Report Unaudited for the period ending April 30, 2019.
- (C) Approval of Accounts Payable Report for the period ending April 30, 2019.
- (D) Approval of Investment Report for the period ending April 30, 2019.

Commissioner Cook moved to approve the consent items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Armacost and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

Items for Individual Consideration:

- (A) Presentation and acceptance of the 2018 Annual Audit Report. (Christopher Breaux, CPA, Whitley Penn)

Christopher Breaux, CPA, Whitley Penn, presented and explained the 2018 Annual Audit. Commissioner Armacost moved to approve the Annual Audit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newton and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

- (B) Presentation by Ivan Langford on Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA's) water availability. (Ivan Langford, General Manager)

Mr. Langford gave an overview of who GCWA is or our wholesale provider for drinking water. The water pumps out of the Brazos River into the treatment plant in Texas City where the water is from, it has a capacity of 50,000 million gallons a day. GCWA has water available in the next year or so. Hitchcock is growing and will need water so the city should act on the water that is available now.

No action needs to be taken.

- (C) Discussion and appropriate action regarding an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Hitchcock and Galveston County to partially fund improvements to various City streets within the city limits of Hitchcock. (Marie Gelles, City Administrator)

Marie Gelles, recommends the approval of the Interlocal Agreement to move us forward in participating in receiving benefits of the county bond issue of \$830,000 dedicated to the streets inside the city limits of Hitchcock. Michael Shannon, County Engineer, explained the process and the length of time when the work will be completed. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newton and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (D) Discussion and appropriate action regarding a change in zoning request submitted by James Yarbrough from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Single Family Residential (SFR) for the property located in the 6200 Block of FM 2004, Galveston County CAD Account Numbers 131356, 307452 (Case ZC-2019-04). (D. Joe Wood, Planning & Zoning)

Joe Wood recommends the zone change to Single Family Residential building in the neighborhood of approximately of 105 homes a value of value of \$175,000 to \$225,000 each with 3 or 4 bedrooms. This will add to our tax value. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the zone change. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newton and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (E) Discussion and appropriate action regarding an Ordinance adopting a Draught Contingency Plan. (Otis O'Callaghan, Water Plant Operator)

Otis O'Callaghan, explained the Ordinance regarding the Draught Contingency Plan it's the same one that we've had for the past 5 years. No changes to the plan keeping it similar with the rest of Galveston County. Mayor Strickland mentioned the rules of Texas Commission on environmental quality TCEQ requires all retail public water suppliers to prepare and adopt a draught contingency for implementation during periods of water shortage. Commissioner Abdullah moved to approve the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newton and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (F) Discussion and appropriate action regarding an amendment to Ordinance for Flood Damage Prevention, Section 152.31 and Section 152.41(6). (Kyle Dickson, City Attorney)

City Attorney Kyle Dickson explained the changes are results of our previous modifications to accept the Flood Insurance to study the FIS which was required by FEMA and International Flood Insurance program should not have any impact on flood rates. Commissioner Armacost moved to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (G) Discussion and appropriate action regarding an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 155 by adding Section 155.13. – Pre-Application Conference, Section 155.14. – Minor Plats, Section 155.20. – Final Plat Revisions and adding to Chapter 155.02 Definitions, the term *Plat, Minor*. (D. Joe Wood, Planning & Zoning)

Joe Wood discussed that the current Ordinance does not allow for a Minor Plat. The city has some old platted neighborhoods that has very small lots that does not meet the minimum requirement and this allows for a person to join these together without having to go to an Engineer and also does not allows for any revisions. Commissioner Newton moved to approve the amending of the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Armacost and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (H) Discussion and appropriate action regarding an Ordinance amending Section 153.03(A), Location of Mobile Homes outside Licensed Parks. (D. Joe Wood, Planning & Zoning)

Joe Wood discussed that this is an outdated Ordinance and it is already in effect just adding one line, “No Mobile Home should be placed on any lot or spot until permit is issued”. Commissioner Newton moved to approve the correction to the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (I) Discussion and appropriate action regarding an Ordinance adding Title IX Business Regulations, Chapter 123, Automotive Related Business Regulations. (D. Joe Wood, Planning & Zoning)

Joe Wood explained that the Zoning department does not have anything in relation to Automotive Business. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (J) Discussion and appropriate action regarding an Ordinance repealing Title XI Business Regulations, Chapter 113 Junk Yards and Junk Vehicles and replacing with Chapter 113 Junk/Inoperable Vehicles. (D. Joe Wood, Planning and Zoning)

Joe Wood explained that the city currently has a junk vehicle Ordinance that was written in 1997. This Ordinance was written for the previous one that was adopted as of what is a junk vehicle. Commissioner Newton moved to approve the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (K) Discussion and appropriate action regarding a Resolution approving the appointment of the law firm of Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal & Zeck, PC to provide legal services as special counsel. (Kyle Dickson, City Attorney)

City Attorney Kyle Dickson mentioned that we have begun the process of the Charter review we have identified this firm and they are experts in this field. Commissioner Newton moved to approve the appointment of the law firm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (L) Discussion and appropriate action regarding Board & Commission Appointments.
(Mayor)

Mayor Stricklind would like to table this for the next meeting. Commissioner Newton moved to table this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

Mayor and Commissioner Requests/Comments.

Commissioner Abdullah – none

Commissioner Armacost – none

Commissioner Newton – none

Commissioner Cook – would like to thank Candie for the work that she has been doing. Concerned about the Highland Bayou as it's a big drainage problem it needs to be cleaned or dredged.

Mayor Stricklind – drainage is the biggest problem. We are trying to get the city cleaned up. The Ordinances are going to be worked on they are very outdated.

Announcements. none

Adjournment to Closed or Executive Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074, the Texas Open Meetings Act*.

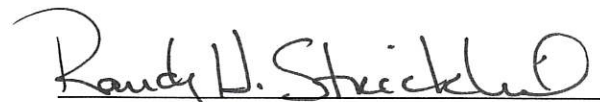
Did not adjourn to closed session – No matters.


Reconvene into Open Session and possible action necessary related to the Closed or Executive Session.

Did not adjourn to closed session – No matters.

Adjourn

Commissioner Adbullah moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newton and passed with a 5 to 0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.


Randy Stricklind, Mayor


~~Janie Avila, Assistant City Secretary~~
Lucy Diehringer