

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
HITCHCOCK CITY COMMISSION
HITCHCOCK CITY HALL
7423 HIGHWAY 6, HITCHCOCK, TEXAS
MARCH 18, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Mayor Childress, Commissioners Fard Abdullah, Monica Cantrell, Randy Stricklind, and Mark Cook

Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Marie Gelles, City Secretary Lucy Dieringer, Rusty Plackemeier for City Attorney Kyle Dickson that could not be present, and Police Chief Wilmon Smith

1. Call to Order

Mayor Childress called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. Invocation

Samuel Collins III gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

We all recited the pledge of allegiance.

4. Employee Service Award: None

5. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – February 19, 2019

Commissioner Stricklind moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

Special Meeting – February 26, 2019

Commissioner Cook moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stricklind and passed with a 4 to 0 vote. Commissioner Cantrell abstained from voting due to not being present at the meeting.

6. Review and acceptance of FY 2019 Revenue and Expense Report Unaudited, Accounts Payable Report, and Investment Report.

Commissioner Abdullah moved to accept the reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strickland and passed with a 5 to 0 vote. Mayor Childress wanted everyone to know that we are 41.67% complete into the fiscal year and our expenses are at 33.11%. Mayor Childress also gave a brief recap of some of the major revenue line items. Mayor Childress stated she is very pleased with this report and believes the city is on the way to financial recovery.

7. Citizen Comments: (3) Minute Limit per Speaker.

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:

1. Sam Collins – 7902 Hwy 6 – TAMU Texas Target Community wide meetings

8. Public Hearing: None

9. Items for Individual Consideration:

(A) Swearing in of City Administrator, Marie Gelles.

Mayor Childress swore in Marie Gelles as City Administrator. Ms. Gelles received a round of applause from the audience.

- (B) Report from Hitchcock Economic Development Corporation’s (HEDC) Executive Director Sabrina Schwertner on economic development activities.

Ms. Schwertner gave a very informative report/presentation on HEDC activities and services provided to the City of Hitchcock. Dane Collins, Director for Galveston County EDC also gave an explanation of how his office works with the Hitchcock EDC.

- (C) Appointments to fill vacant board member positions on the HEDC Board. (Mayor Childress)

Mayor Childress recommended Randy Stricklind fill the vacant position previously held by Anthony Matranga who passed away after many dedicated years of service to the HEDC. Commissioner Cantrell moved to appoint Randy Stricklind. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 4 to 0 vote. Commissioner Stricklind could not vote per attorney, Rusty Plackemeir.

Mayor Childress recommended Dane Carlson be appointed Ex-officio member. Commissioner Stricklind moved to appoint Dane Carlson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

- (D) Discussion and appropriate action regarding HEDC’s Welcome Sign Project to create and maintain “Welcome” signage at the East, West, North, and Southern edges of the City. (Sabrina Schwertner, Executive Director)

Ms. Schwertner asked if the Commission wanted her to move forward with the project. Commissioner Cook asked if the city would have to purchase land. Sabrina explained where they were looking at, and some of the locations will be donated. Commissioner Cantrell moved for her to look into the project and come back to the Commission on funding. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook and passed with a 5 to 0 vote. Commissioner Cook also requested she make sure when they say “maintenance free” it is actually maintenance free.

- (E) Briefing and approval of Racial Profiling Report –Tier One for the City of Hitchcock Police Department (Chief Smith)

Chief Smith gave a briefing on what the report details. Commissioner Stricklind moved to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cantrell and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

(F) Discussion and appropriate action approving Ordinance 2019-01 (O) amending Ordinance 98-729 designating the following intersections as stop intersections: Stewart @Miller; Stewart @Smith; Stewart @White; Stewart @ Leigh; Stewart @Dellamera; and, Stewart @ Matranga, as recommended by the Chief of Police. (Chief Smith)
Mayor Childress recommended approving the stop signs as requested by Chief Smith. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the stop signs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cantrell and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

(G) Discussion and appropriate action approving Resolution No. 2019-01 (R) designating the Galveston County the Daily News Newspaper as the official newspaper for the City of Hitchcock. (Lucy Dieringer, City Secretary)
Ms. Dieringer stated that the Galveston Daily News agreed to give the City of Hitchcock a rate of \$5.00 per column inch, the same rate they give the County of Galveston. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Resolution appointing the Galveston Daily News as the official newspaper. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

10. Mayor and Commissioner Requests/Comments.

Mayor Childress: None

Commissioner Abdullah: Thanked Ms. Gelles for reformatting the Agenda and making it larger print.

Commissioner Cantrell: 1) read a letter Temple residents received from the Post office. She has asked for the dog ordinance to be on the agenda for 3 months now. Ms. Gelles responded she is working on the issue and plans on having it on the next agenda. 2) Not receiving enough heavy debris hauling, need more service, and have a place to drop off debris. Ms. Gelles stated she met with Ameriwaste last week and will have an insert in next month's water bill to explain pickup details to residents. Ms. Gelles stated Code Enforcement will start issuing notices to residents. Commissioner Cantrell said she did want citations issued to elderly citizens. 3) thanked Rusty for attending, do not see Kyle much anymore.

Commissioner Stricklind: EDC had a good Monday Morning Mocha. Debris pickup was discussed at the meeting. Ms. Schwertner stated Mr. Vicknair offered an area for a "trash bash". Stricklind said we have a trailer.

Commissioner Cook: rode by the Joe Moore Park and the Scouts did a great job Sunday.

11. Announcements:

City Offices Closed April 19, 2019 in observance of Good Friday.

12. 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

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

Did not adjourn to closed session – No matters

14. Adjourn

Commissioner Abdullah moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook and passed with a 5 to 0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 P.M.

Dorothy Childress, Mayor

Attest:

Lucy Dieringer, City Secretary