

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
HITCHCOCK CITY COMMISSION
HITCHCOCK CITY HALL
MAY 21, 2018
6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Dorothy Childress, Commissioners Fard Abdullah, Monica Cantrell, Randy Stricklind and Mark Cook

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Secretary Lucy Dieringer, City Attorney Russell Plackemeier

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Childress called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

OPENING PRAYER: Rev. Thadeus Brown gave the opening prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: We all recited the pledge of allegiance.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 16, 2018

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

SPECIAL MEETING – APRIL 23, 2018

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 – MAY 16, 2018

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF INVESTMENT REPORT

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

HEAR STATUS REPORT FROM SABRINA SCHWERTNER, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON HIDC AND HIDC FUNDS USED FOR CITY PROJECTS.

Mayor Childress withdrew this item due to more information being needed before presenting.

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE BRIEFING BY SABRINA SCHWERTNER AND HARRY ROBINSON

Mayor Childress withdrew this item due to more information being needed before presenting

PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

BUSINESS:

(A) CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF MAYORS APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mayor Childress moved to appoint Commissioner Stricklind; she started with him and would like him to continue with the progress. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook. Commissioner Cantrell questioned the duty of a Mayor Pro Tem and thought Commissioner Stricklind did not want the position when former Mayor Matranga was unable to serve. Commissioner Stricklind said he is not employed now and can fulfill the responsibility. Commissioner Cantrell said she can respect that now and support him. The motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

(B) CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-987, CHANGING THE LICENSE AND OPERATION FEES FROM \$400.00 TO \$600.00 PER DEVICE AND TO CHANGE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GAME ROOM LICENSES ISSUED FROM 14 TO 8

Commissioner Stricklind moved to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook. Mayor Childress explained that she thought the \$600.00 was in the close proximity of what neighboring cities charge but found out after the agenda was posted that they are actually charging \$1,000.00 per machine and asked if the Commissioners were ok with increasing from \$400.00 to \$600.00 or if they wanted to reconsider a different amount? Commissioner Abdullah recommended that they reconsider. Mr. Plackemeier advised the Commission that this item would need to be tabled and could be readdressed at the next meeting. Commissioner Stricklind and Commissioner Cook withdrew their motion to approve. Commissioner Abdullah moved to table this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stricklind and passed with a 5 to 0 vote. Mayor Childress apologized for the late finding. Commissioner Cantrell questioned why we had to table this item and could not just amend the amount? Mr. Plackemeier stated it was because the amount was posted on the Agenda. Commissioner Cantrell stated that next time we need to learn a lesson and not put an amount on the Agenda.

(C) CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF APPOINTING MAYOR PRO-TEM TO ADDRESS EMPLOYEE SAFETY

Mayor Childress moved to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

(D) CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF ENGINEER'S RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR BARRY STREET SANITARY SEWER PIPE BURSTING PROJECT

Commissioner Stricklind moved to the Engineer's recommendation and award the contract to King Solution Services, LLC in the amount of \$71,670.00. The motion was seconded by Mayor Childress and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

(E) CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION, PROCLAIMING JUNE 9, 2018 AS “JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION DAY”

Commissioner Cantrell moved to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

(F) CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION, PROCLAIMING JUNE 23, 2018 AS “MATTHEW OUTLER CORNELIUS & JEFFREY BLAKE CORNELIUS DAY”

Commissioner Cantrell moved to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abdullah and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

(G) CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZING MAYOR CHILDRRESS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH RATHBURN PLANNING & CONSULTING FOR CITY FINANCIAL PLANNING THROUGH LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

Mayor Childress withdrew this item

(H) CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZING MAYOR CHILDRRESS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH RON COX CONSULTING FOR CITY FINANCIAL PLANNING THROUGH LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

Mayor Childress moved for discussion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stricklind. Mayor Childress gave some background on Mr. Cox. Mayor Childress also explained that this would be a per hour contract with a \$50,000.00 limit and we do have funds HEDC has designated for City use. Commissioner Cantrell stated she personally would like to hire a full time City Manager instead. Mayor Childress explained how she uses city employees and that getting the City in a position to hire a City Manager has been in her plans since the beginning of her appointment, per City Charter, but not at this time. She is dedicated to getting the job done and welcomes any suggestions, solutions or recommendations. Commissioner Cantrell stated she is always available. Commissioner Stricklind stated he agrees with Commissioner Cantrell that we need a City Administrator but he also agrees that this is not the time. Mayor Childress stated that if there was no more discussion, we have a motion and a second and asked for a vote. The motion passed with a 4 to 1 vote with Commissioner Cantrell voting against.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Abdullah-Mayor Childress has been working diligently getting the City where it needs to be and that Mr. Cox and Rathburn are some good guys and are really helping us get on track. He asked Commissioner Cantrell to not feel slighted.

Commissioner Cantrell-Would like audience participation moved to the front of the Agenda. Would like to have a Special Meeting or Workshop to discuss the safety of our citizens and our school district, we need to beef up our police department and not widdle it down, safety should be our primary focus.

Commissioner Cook-Final Harvey debris pickup hopefully starting next Tuesday, we have 30 days to complete and get FEMA reimbursement

Commissioner Stricklind-Wanted to add that this pick-up is for Harvey cleanup, not new construction.

Mayor Childress-Read a statement in reference to the Santa Fe School tragedy. She explained that Chief Hamm and her met with the HISD Superintendent in regards to the School Resource officers contract and explained that the school must cover the cost of the officers for the entire 12 months, not just 9 months, the city cannot assume any of the cost of these officers and the school must fund the officers 100%, the superintendent told them they had to explore their options, Galveston County being one of them. Mayor Childress wants to work with the HISD.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

(2 MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER, NO EXCEPTION)

The following audience addressed the Commission:

John Elliott-Support of Police

Dow Solari-Support of Police

Paul Hyatt-Support of Police

Kathy Marullo-Support of Police

Michael Adams-Support of Police

Rev. Thadeus Brown-Support of Police

Rev. David Everson-Support of Police

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(A) CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED MAY 28TH FOR MEMORIAL DAY

(B) STREET DEPT. RECEIVED THANK YOU CARD FROM JOSH & TIFFANY HOUSTON

(C) CITY OF HITCHCOCK CHOSEN FOR “TEXAS TARGET COMMUNITIES” PROJECT BY TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Mayor Childress read the above announcements.

Mayor Childress asked the Chief and his officers to remain after the meeting for a very short meeting with her.

Rev. Elliott announced that he met with Santa Fe’s Mayor and about 15 pastors from the area and Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM there will be a gathering of community churches and leaders at the Santa Fe Football Field supporting the Santa Fe school children.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Abdullah moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strickland and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:03 P.M.

Dorothy Childress, Mayor

Attest:

Lucy Dieringer, City Secretary