

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTIES OF ARANSAS §
SAN PATRICIO AND NUECES §
CITY OF ARANSAS PASS §

A Regular Meeting of the Aransas Pass City Council was held on Monday, June 4, 2018 in the Aransas Pass City Hall, 600 W. Cleveland Blvd., Aransas Pass, Texas 78336. A notice of the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance in accordance with Section 551, Texas Government Code. Mayor Ramiro Gomez, and Council Members Vickie Abrego, Billy Ellis, Janet Moore and Carrie Scruggs were present. Also present was City Manager Gary Edwards and City Attorney Roxann Pais Cotroneo.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG.

Council Member Abrego gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

3. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

There were no Presentations/Proclamations.

4. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

There were no Board and Commission appointments.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

5.I. Extending the Disaster Declaration issued by the Mayor on August 25, 2017 in response to Hurricane Harvey and extend this Declaration until the July 2, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting.

5.II. Approval of May 15, 2018 Special and Workshop Meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ellis to approve Items 5.I. and 5.II, seconded by Council Member Scruggs, and the motion passed with the following vote: Gomez, Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

6.I. Public comment on the Proposed FY2018-2019 Operating Budget.

Gary Edwards, City Manager stated that this is the beginning of the budget process and the purpose of this public comment is for citizens to comment or present ideas for the upcoming operating budget.

Ricky Kilgore, spoke in support of the AP Fire Department and stated that with more businesses, industry and residents building in the city there is a need for more personnel and equipment.

Henry Diaz-DeLeon, spoke in support of the AP Fire Department and stated that the

department needs more equipment and personnel, including a ladder truck to reach three and four story buildings to adequately respond to a fire. He also commented that the VFW Post 2932 was established in 1934 and the building which they are housed in a historical building and needs to be refurbished. He added that they have received some support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation but are still lacking in funds; and informed the Council that the Helicopter that was damaged during Hurricane Harvey is being transported to Illinois for repairs. Mr. Diaz-DeLeon also stated that they plan to have a Mural on the building saying, "Land of the Free because of the Brave".

Carol Salinas, stated that both the Fire Department and the Police Department are very important to the community.

7. CITY MANAGER

7.I. Consider and act on Sponsorship Request from Aransas Pass for Youth to use the Pool for six days during the 2018 Summer Season.

Mr. Edwards stated that Aransas Pass for Youth is requesting use of the Pool at no charge for the 2018 Summer Program on Tuesday, June 19 – July 24, from 10 am to 3 pm; and added that the City does lose monies with this request.

Mayor Gomez stated he supports this program because it gives the youth something to do and somewhere to go. Mr. Edwards added that there are alternatives such as a discounted rate, reduce the number of days, and that the Tuesday being requested is normally used for staff training. Council Member Moore stated that she recalled last year there was discussion that the group would find sponsors for the future.

Council Member Scruggs stated that she supports the program but due to the financial condition the City is facing it would be irresponsible for the city to allow free admission and would support a reduced rate. Mayor Gomez asked what the actual cost is to the City, and Ms. Lee responded that the amounts are reflected in the agenda memo.

A motion as made by Council Member Abrego to allow the use of the Pool at a discounted rate of \$3.00 on Tuesday for the period specified, seconded by Council Member Scruggs, and the motion passed with the following vote: Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye; Gomez voting No.

7.II. Consider and Act on approval to apply for Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant.

Mr. Edwards stated that this is requesting approval to apply for an EDA grant for the purpose of paving the roads at Conn Brown Harbor, with an adjacent path.

Council Member Moore asked the timeframe, and Mr. Edwards stated that there is flexibility and the timelines have not yet been set, but must be completed within two or three years.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to approve Item 7.II, seconded by Council Member Scruggs, and the motion passed with the following vote: Gomez, Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

7.III. Consider and Act on designating an Elected Official to serve on the Budget Review Committee.

Mr. Edwards stated that the Budget Review Committee will be comprised of the City Manager, Director of Finance, and an Elected Official for the purpose of reviewing department budgets line item-by-line item. He added that a City council Budget Workshop is scheduled for June 15th to set priorities, and the next step in the process is the budget review.

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to designate Council Member Abrego to serve on the Budget Review Committee, seconded by Council Member Ellis, and the motion passed with the following vote: Gomez, Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

7.IV. Consider and Act on approving the automatic increase in Garbage Services as stated in the contract with Absolute Waste Services, Inc.

Mr. Edwards stated that the contract with Absolute Waste allows for a CPI increase for all residential customers. He stated the increase is \$0.43 per month for all residential customers, and commercial customers will also have an increase based on their charge for service. Mr. Edwards added that in the past, rate increases for other services have been passed on to its customers, as a “pass through” increase.

Council Member Abrego asked how much do residential customers currently pay, and Ms. Garcia responded that currently residential customers pay \$26.34, and with the \$0.43 increase will pay \$26.77.

Dan Miller, 234 10th Street, asked if trash pickup was still once a month because he said he waited three-months to have his trash picked up, and will now be charged more for this service.

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to approve Item 7.IV, seconded by Council Member Scruggs, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, and the motion passed with the following vote: Gomez, Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

7.V. Consider and Act to approve the proposal from Attorney Ricardo J. Navarro, with the Law Firm of Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal & Zech, PC to review and complete and update Personnel Policy Manual for the City of Aransas Pass, Texas.

Mr. Edwards stated that the City’s Personnel Manual is outdated and is not in compliance with new federal and state laws. He added that staff is recommending Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal Hyde & Zech, PC who specializes in this area for an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

Council Member Moore asked when the manual was last updated, and Mr. Edwards responded that it has been several years. Council Member Abrego stated that once the manual has been updated that it be available online.

A motion was made by Council Member Abrego to approve Item 7.V. to award the contract to DNRBHZ for an amount not to exceed \$6,000, seconded by Council Member Moore, and the motion passed with the following vote: Gomez, Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

8. COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT:

There were no Community Enrichment items.

9. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:

9.I. Consider and Act on the re-issuance of Request for Proposals for Softball Complex.

Fernando Quintanilla, Director of Public Works stated that an RFP was issued for the Softball Complex and that no bids were received. He stated that there is still work that needs to be done to get the fields ready, and that the season is June – December.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the condition of field, when the fields would be ready, and other alternative uses for the complex.

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to table this item to the July 2nd Workshop Meeting to discuss other alternative uses, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, and the motion passed with the following vote: Gomez, Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

9.II. Consider and Act on approving Change Order No. 1 for the Shrimporee Building project.

Mr. Quintanilla stated the Shrimporee Building had severe damage and repairs are being made with FEMA monies. He added that this Change Order is for \$12,000 with Geofill Construction for a restroom upstairs, insulation, epoxy flooring downstairs and new storm rated windows upgrades, and has the potential to use as office space. He stated that these upgrades are not covered by FEMA, but the Police Department has agreed to fund these costs using Drug Seizure Funds.

A motion was made by Council Member Abrego to approve Item 9.II, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, and the motion passed with the following vote: Gomez, Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

10. FINANCE:

There were no Finance items.

11. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

There were no Information Technology items.

12. PUBLIC SAFETY:

12.I. Consider and Act on approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Aransas Pass Police Department and the Ingleside Police Department for Temporary Emergency Dispatch Services.

David Perkins, Police Department stated that the Ingleside Interim Police Chief has reached out for assistance in the event he loses his staff within his communications division, which would impact 911 calls, emergency services and outside policy agency request. He added that they anticipate a lack of manpower for approximately 23 days this month and the agreement would work vice versa.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ellis to approve Item 12.I, seconded by Council Member Scruggs, and the motion passed with the following vote: Gomez, Abrego, Ellis, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

13. CITY COUNCIL OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mr. Edwards stated that a Strategic Budget Workshop meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2018 for the purpose of setting priorities, and that the second public meeting for the Comprehensive Plan to plan the City's future is scheduled for this week on June 6, 2018.

City Attorney Cotroneo informed the Council that she plans to attend the Prosecutors Conference on June 25-27, 2018 at no cost to the city.

14. CITIZEN COMMENT:

Carol Salinas, commented that people are trimming trees and then placing them on the side of the road and illegally dumping; and also commented on properties that have been approved for demolition and asked how long before they are actually demolished. She added that in the meantime, properties are getting mold and not safe for the environment.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The meeting was recessed into Executive Session at 6:45 pm under the provisions of Section 551, Texas Government Code to discuss the authority of:

1. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney: City of Aransas Pass vs. J.M. Davidson, Ltd. RLI Insurance Company, and Naismith Engineering, Cause No. S-14-6278CV-C in the 343rd Judicial District Court in San Patricio County, Texas.
2. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney: Tax Abatement Agreement with Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, 2679 Texas 35 Business Aransas Pass, Texas. Section 551.071, Daniel Jimenez and Paul Harrison vs. City of Aransas Pass, Cause No. S-15-6059CV-C.
3. Section 551.071, To consult with City Attorney regarding an amendment to lease agreement with Redfish Bay Boathouse, LLC, and review of Fee Schedule Policy for Harbor Leases in Con Brown Harbor.
4. Section 551.072, Deliberations regarding Real Property related to LWR.
5. Section 551.072 Deliberations regarding Real Property related to offer of 20.0 acres, Property ID No. 14172, with a legal description of Block 213, Lots 27-30, Burton & Danforth.

The council returned from Executive Session at 8:30 pm. Mayor Gomez announced that no action would be taken on Item 1 through 5.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gomez adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Ramiro Gomez
Mayor

Mary Juarez
City Secretary

Approved on: _____