

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
SPECIAL MEETING - AUGUST 10, 2023**

8/10/2023 - Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER (Room 204)

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Craig Brown, Mayor Pro Tem David Collins, Council Member Sharon Lewis, Council Member David Finklea, Council Member Mike Bouvier, Council Member John Listowski, and Council Member Marie Robb.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 3.A. Recognition Of The Retirement Of City Of Galveston Employee David Ewald

A Proclamation honoring retiring City of Galveston Employee David Ewald was read by Executive Director Tim Tietjens. Mr. Ewald is retiring from the City after 41 dedicated years of service.

- 3.B. Clarification Of Agenda Items - This Is An Opportunity For City Council To Ask Questions Of Staff On Agenda Items (20 Min)

Item 8C was clarified by City Staff.

- 3.C. Discussion Of The FY 2024 Budget And Capital Improvement Plan (M. Loftin - 30 Min)

Executive Director Csilla Ludanyi presented the FY 2024 Proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

- 3.D. Discussion Of Deficiencies And Costs Associated With Complying With FAA Part 139 Certification Requirements From Vesta Rea & Associates, LLC (M. Shahan - 20 Min)

Airport Director Mike Shahan reported that Council asked staff to find out what it would cost and what improvements need to be made at the airport to comply with FAA Part 139 certification. Vesta Rea provided Council with a report of deficiencies, costs, and required improvements associated with complying with FAA Part 139 certification requirements. She reported that the estimated cost for upgrades totals \$6,328,750. Airport Director Shahan reported on possible funding sources for each of the improvements.

- 3.E. Consider For Discussion The Status Of The Issuance Of First Lien Revenue Bonds For The Finance Of Improvement To Cruise Terminal 25 And Associated Documents From The Port Related To Such Issuance And Reimbursement Of Project Costs Incurred To Date (Brown - 20 Min)

Port Director Rodger Rees provided an overview of the funding request from the Port of Galveston. It is a request for Council approval of revenue bonds for use at Terminal 25 to make improvements for Carnival Cruise Lines. He reported that 83% of costs will be reimbursed by Carnival over several years. Council discussion was held regarding the Port's debt service which will be covered by a cost recovery fee. Mayor Brown reported that item will be on the August 24th agenda for Council's consideration.

- 3.F. Discussion Of Cultural Arts Commission's Current Projects And FY2024 Allocations (Collins/Brown - 20 Min)

MPT Collins presented the Cultural Arts Commission's current projects including "Iron Wings" sculpture, Boys & Girls Club mural, GISD garden shed murals, Third Eyeland Festival, and the Seawall Tribute Sculpture. He will coming back to Council for a significant increase in funding for public art.

- 3.G. Discuss A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Galveston, Texas, Distributing And Awarding Fiscal Year 2024 And Fiscal Year 2025 Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenues To Eligible Arts And Historic Preservation Organizations Under Multi-Year Agreements; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute Contracts With Such Recipients Upon Approval Of Those Contracts By The City Attorney; Directing The City Secretary To Send A Certified Copy Of The Resolution To The Park Board Of Trustees; Providing For Findings Of Fact And Providing For An Effective Date. (M. Jadidi)

MPT Collins led the discussion on funding to eligible arts and historic preservation organizations. He placed this item on the workshop agenda so Council could take a closer look at the \$1.8 million in grant funding for this year's allocations prior to approval. Board Chair Mary Branum provided information on requirements for funding, and the board's methods for scoring and approval of the entity applications.

- 3.H. Discuss An Ordinance Of The City Of Galveston, Texas, Modifying Rules And Policies Governing The Arts And Historic Preservation Board By Amending Chapter 33 – Taxation, Article Iii Hotel Occupancy Tax Sec. 33-95 To Amend The Required Meeting Dates; Add A Penalty Provision For Non-Compliance In Quarterly Reporting; Making Various Findings And Provisions Related To The Subject And Providing For An Effective Date (M. Jadidi)

Assistant City Attorney Mehran Jadidi provided an overview of proposed amendments to Chapter 33 of the City Code, which include some housekeeping items and provisions for late reporting by the entities. This item is on today's agenda for Council's consideration.

- 3.I. Discussion And Possible Amendments To The Taxi Cab Ordinance (Lewis/Brown - 15 Min)

CM Lewis brought this item forward to see if Council could take a look at amending the taxi cab ordinance relating to the age of the taxi cab being limited to ten years. Discussion was held regarding whether the City should regulate taxi cabs at all. Staff will bring back a proposed amendment to the ordinance eliminating the age requirement of taxi cabs.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council convened into Executive Session at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 2:51 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

- 4.A. Pursuant To Texas Government Code Section 551.074, "Personnel Matters" To Deliberate The Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Or Duties Of A Public Officer Or Employee.

4.A.1. City Council Appointee Evaluations

1. City Manager - Brian Maxwell
2. City Attorney - Donald Glywasky
3. City Auditor - Glenn Bulgherini
4. City Secretary - Janelle Williams

5. RECESS MEETING (10 Min)

The Council took a 10 minute recess at 2:51 p.m.

6. RECONVENE MEETING (Council Chambers)

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Charlotte O'Rourke - Port of Galveston finances, open records requests, and bank reconciliations; Mary Branum - arts and historic allocations.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- 8.A. Consider A Motion To Propose A Property Tax Rate Of \$0.408850 Per \$100 Of Taxable Value For Tax Year 2023 And Call A Public Hearing On September 14, 2023.

Motion was made by Mayor Brown, second by MPT Collins, proposing a property tax rate of \$0.408850 per \$100 of taxable valuation for tax year 2023 and calling a public hearing on September 14, 2023. Unanimously approved.

- 8.B. Consider A Motion To Call A Public Hearing On September 14, 2023 On The FY 2024 Proposed Budget As Required By State Law.

Motion was made by Mayor Brown, second by CM Lewis, calling a public hearing on September 14, 2023 on the FY 2024 Proposed Budget as required by law. Unanimously approved.

- 8.C. Consider For Approval Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Letter To Release Federally Obligated Land, Hereby Releasing 26.3 Acres Of Airport Property, Identified As Tract C, From The Conditions, Reservations, And Restrictions As Contained In The Instrument Of Transfer From The United States Of America To The City Of Galveston And Approve The Sell Of The Property Through A Sealed Bid Or At A Public Auction For The Full-Appraised Price Range And Upon Approval As To Form By The City Attorney (M. Shahan).

Motion was made by MPT Collins, second by CM Bouvier, to approve the item as presented. Unanimously approved.

- 8.D. Consider For Approval A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Galveston, Texas, Distributing And Awarding Fiscal Year 2024 And Fiscal Year 2025 Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenues To Eligible Arts And Historic Preservation Organizations Under Multi-Year Agreements; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute Contracts With Such Recipients Upon Approval Of Those Contracts By The City Attorney; Directing The City Secretary To Send A Certified Copy Of The Resolution To The Park Board Of Trustees; Providing For Findings Of Fact And Providing For An Effective Date. (M. Jadidi)

(1) Motion was made by MPT Collins, second by C Finklea, to approve Resolution No. 23-021. CM Robb suggested an amendment to the motion to approve all, except to defer action on all first time recipients. MPT Collins accepted the amendment, but CM Finklea suggested an amendment defer all with a score of less than 90. MPT Collins withdrew his motion.

(2) Motion was made by CM Robb, second by CM Listowski, to approve all requests except for the first time applicants for further review by Council. In favor: Collins, Listowski, and Robb. In opposition: Brown, Lewis, Finklea, Bouvier. Motion fails.

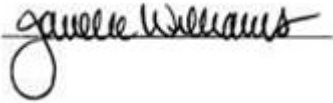
(3) Motion was made by Mayor Brown, second by CM Bouvier, to approve Resolution No. 23-021 as presented. In favor: Brown, Collins, Lewis, Finklea, and Bouvier. In opposition: Listowski and Robb. Motion passes.

- 8.E. Consider For Approval An Ordinance Of The City Of Galveston, Texas, Modifying Rules And Policies Governing The Arts And Historic Preservation Board By Amending Chapter 33 – Taxation, Article Iii Hotel Occupancy Tax Sec. 33-95 To Amend The Required Meeting Dates; Add A Penalty Provision For Non-Compliance In Quarterly Reporting; Making Various Findings And Provisions Related To The Subject And Providing For An Effective Date. (M. Jadidi)

Ordinance No. 23-052 was read by caption. Motion was made by MPT Collins, second by CM Lewis, to approve the ordinance. Unanimously approved.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Janelle Williams, City Secretary

Date Approved: October 26, 2023