

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MINUTES

### CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023 Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass

Members of the public could view the meeting via live stream. Public participation is valued and citizens wishing to express their views on any topic or agenda item could electronically submit a Citizen Participation Form in order to register to speak by going to <https://rockport.seamlessdocs.com/f/CouncilCitizenParticipation> or scanning the QR code provided on the Agenda, or if attending the meeting in person register before the meeting begins. Using the same form, citizens could also provide written comments to the City Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The comments were read at the meeting.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m., at the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center and notice of meeting giving time, place, date, and subject was posted as described in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.041.

#### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Tim Jayroe  
Mayor Pro-Tem Andrea Hattman, Ward 4 – *Via ZOOM*  
Council Member Stephanie Rangel, Ward 1  
Council Member Danielle Hale, Ward 2  
Council Member Brad Brundrett, Ward 3

#### CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Vanessa Shrauner  
Assistant to City Manager Kimberly Henry  
City Secretary Teresa Valdez  
City Attorney Art Rodriguez, Jr.  
Director of Public Works and Building & Development Services Mike Donoho  
Parks & Leisure Services Director Gene Camargo  
Information Technology Director Bob Argetsinger  
Community Planner Carey Dietrich  
Director of Finance Robbie Sorrell  
Communications Center Director Lee Brown  
Chief of Police Greg Stevens

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

#### Opening Agenda

#### 1. Call meeting to order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Jayroe at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, in

the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas.

## **2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Council Member Brundrett led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

## **3. Citizens to be heard.**

At this time, comments limited to three (3) minutes will be taken from the audience from persons who have signed the speaker's card located on the table in the back of the Training Room of the Service Center and delivered to the City Secretary before the meeting begins, or written comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any Agenda item or any subject matter, will be read at the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Council and who have registered using the Citizen Participation Form will have up to three minutes to speak. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. While civil public criticism is not prohibited, disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace as prohibited by law shall be cause for the chair to terminate the offender's time to speak.

Doug Webb, 130 Lamar Drive, addressed the Council, and stated that he had recently received a traffic ticket and the officer was polite, efficient and showed that he had been educated on citizens' rights. Mr. Webb stated this is positive proof of the training provided by the Chief of Police.

Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive, addressed the Council, and stated she had recommendations for the Council to ensure full transparency on the budget: would like to see policies in place when changes are made to the budget, they have to come back to you and would like to see monthly financials on the website. Ms. Rutledge asked Consent Agenda Item 4 be pulled for separate discussion.

Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive, addressed the Council, and stated she had a handout of Page 10 of the Agenda Packet for the Council. Ms. Rutledge stated you cannot read the Capital Improvement Plan list that is on that page of the Minutes, and she is asking the Minutes to be updated with the entire ledger sheet of the Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Rutledge said you had a special meeting on September 3, 2023, with a lot of handouts regarding the budget, and those minutes are not included tonight, and you are going to adopt a budget tonight without the public ever seeing that information.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- 4. Deliberate and act on approval of City Council Budget Workshop Minutes of August 1, 2023, and August 3, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2023, and Special Meeting Minutes of August 30, 2023, and September 5, 2023.**
- 5. Deliberate and act on approval of 2023-2024 Property Tax Assessment/Collection Agreement with Aransas County.**

6. **Deliberate and act on 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report from the Texas Maritime Museum for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 marketing expenditures.**
7. **Deliberate and act on 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report from the Texas Marine Science Institute/Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Bay Education expenditures.**
8. **Deliberate and act on request for closure of: Broadway Street at the intersection of Highway 35 North to Austin Street South to Market Street, West one block to Magnolia Street, then North on Magnolia Street to North Street, and closure of all street intersections along route, ending at The Rockport Railroad Depot for the Rockport Cultural Arts District Model T Parade on October 21, 2023.**
9. **Deliberate and act on adoption of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Rockport, Texas declaring certain City property surplus and authorizing the disposition and donation of said property to further a public purpose; and establishing an effective date.**
10. **Deliberate and act on recommendation to City Council to remove Planning & Zoning Commission Board Member W. Kent Howard as per Article IX Section 9.05(5) of the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances.**
11. **Deliberate and act on a request by the Tree & Landscape Committee to approve expenditures from the Tree Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$28,388.00 for the purpose of purchasing trees and educational items for the Arbor Day Events being held in November 2023.**

Mayor Jayroe called for requests to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.

Council Member Brundrett requested Consent Agenda Item 4 be pulled for separate discussion.

**MOTION:** Council Member Hale moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 5 through 11, as presented. Council Member Brundrett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consent Agenda Item 4.**

Council Member Brundrett said Ms. Rutledge had showed him her printout of the minutes and the Capital Improvement Plan is hard to read

City Secretary, Teresa Valdez addressed Ms. Rutledge's comments and stated that copies of handouts at Council Meeting can be requested through a Public Information Request.

Discussion was held between Council, Ms. Valdez, and City Manager Shrauner regarding handouts at Council Meetings.

**MOTION:** Council Member Hale moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 4, as presented. Council Member Rangel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Hearing**

At 6:50 p.m., Mayor Jayroe open the Public Hearing.

- 12. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit to bring the existing RV Park into compliance with the current City Codes and to remodel existing features in the RV Park on property located at 1331 State Highway 188; also known as Lot 1R & 2, Coastal Paradise Subdivision, 17.989 acres, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas.**

Brandon Namken, representing the property owner, addressed the Council. Mr. Namken stated he was present if the Council had any questions regarding the request for a Conditional Use Permit.

Community Planner Carey Dietrich addressed the Council. Ms. Dietrich stated the property owners are requesting a Conditional Use Permit to bring the existing RV Park into compliance with the current City Codes and make some upgrades to the RV Park.

Mr. Namken stated they are reducing the number of units from 165 to 155. Mr. Namken added they are changing the entrance, changing drainage, building a new fence, adding an additional gate, building a bigger pond, and adding a lazy river.

At 6:53 p.m., Mayor Jayroe closed the Public Hearing.

### **Regular Agenda**

- 13. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance granting a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of bringing the existing RV Park into compliance with current City Codes and to remodel existing features in the RV Park on property located at 1331 State Highway 188; also known as Lot 1R and 2, Coastal Paradise Subdivision, 17.989 acres, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas; subject to compliance with the conditions stipulated within this Ordinance, as well as those stipulated in the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances; repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.**

Council Member Brundrett commended the property owners for going through the process to come into compliance with City Codes. Council Member Brundrett stated he knows it is difficult to take spots away.

Council Member Hale said the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously supported the request and there was no one present at the meeting in opposition to the request.

**MOTION:** Council Member Brundrett moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance granting a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of bringing the existing RV Park into compliance with current City Codes and to remodel existing features in the RV Park on property

located at 1331 State Highway 188; also known as Lot 1R and 2, Coastal Paradise Subdivision, 17.989 acres, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas; subject to compliance with the conditions stipulated within this Ordinance, as well as those stipulated in the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances; repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Council Member Rangel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**14. Discussion for proposal and possible future action regarding the addition of a school zone to the area around ABC Learning Center located at 1422 East Cedar Street, and the addition of a four-way stop at the intersection(s) next to the facility.**

Police Chief Greg Stevens addressed the Council. Chief Stevens stated Council Member Brundrett had received complaints of heavy traffic driving at excessive speeds near the ABC Learning Center. Chief Stevens said he does not think this area qualifies for a school zone because it is a “learning center”. Chief Stevens requested the Council allow him to conduct a traffic study over a few weeks to determine the traffic volume and actual speeds vehicles are traveling to better understand the best course of action.

Discussion was held between Chief Stevens and Council.

It was the consensus of Council that Chief Stevens conduct a traffic study of the area around ABC Learning Center.

**15. Deliberate and act to adopt, on first and only reading, an Ordinance of the City of Rockport adopting a budget and appropriating resources for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024; in accordance with existing statutory requirements; repealing all conflicting ordinances; containing a severability clause; and providing for an effective date.**

Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive, addressed the Council. Ms. Rutledge says she has a lot of questions and she has been asking them every week: Where is ARP money designated: Where is the 2007 bond money; Utility CIP has changed significantly – has some questionable things in it; Rockport Country Club sediment removal has been defunded; the wastewater treatment plant has been defunded; 14 million in debt is proposed and we have never heard about that; and there has been no discussion at all of a couple of projects – Sabinal.

Director of Finance Robbie Sorrell addressed the Council. Mr. Sorrell stated this is the first and only reading of the Ordinance adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. Mr. Sorrell said a Public Hearing was conducted on September 5, 2023. Mr. Sorrell called the Council’s attention to Exhibit A stating the total budget is \$55,780,051; approximately \$14 million in General Fund, \$15 million in the Utility Fund, and \$3.3 million in the Natural Gas Fund. Mr. Sorrell added that this budget is \$9 million less than last year’s budget.

Mayor Jayroe pointed out that every question that could be answered about the expenditure of funds and capital improvement funds is answered in these documents which had to be posted 72 hours in advance of meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman stated the Council did go over Ms. Rutledge's comments and questions at the last Council meeting: the wastewater treatment plant – not sure if the City Manager wants to go over that again; the Rockport Country Club sediment removal was not defunded, it was utilized. Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman expressed Ms. Rutledge's questions were answered at the last meeting that they were put in the Minutes.

City Manager Vanessa Shrauner stated questions were addressed at the last Council meeting, and she would address them again if Council wanted her to do so.

Council Member Rangel asked for an explanation of why some of the funds (\$250,000 to Sanitation and \$257,000 to Utility) were moved.

Director of Finance Robbie Sorrell responded that the transfers for the Vehicle Replacement Fund and other funds were cut due to budget cuts in order to balance the budget.

Ms. Shrauner responded that the biggest factor in that decision was that we were budgeting for new vehicles, and we had just gotten an influx of new vehicles and that was money we did not need. Ms. Shrauner said that some of that money was put into the General Fund, some in the Utility Fund and one of the biggest factors was an increase in insurance rates, not just for health but also property. Ms. Shrauner explained windstorm insurance had been estimated at \$800,000 and it came in at \$1 million, so there is \$200,000 right there where we had to take from the Vehicle Replacement Fund.

**MOTION:** Council Member Brundrett moved to adopt, on first and only reading, an Ordinance of the City of Rockport adopting a budget and appropriating resources for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024; in accordance with existing statutory requirements; repealing all conflicting ordinances; containing a severability clause; and providing for an effective date. Council Member Hale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**16. Deliberate and act on second and final reading of an Ordinance of the City of Rockport approving the assessment and renditions for the 2023 taxable property as submitted by the Appraisal District; levying a tax rate for \$100.00 valuation for the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, for the Tax Year 2023 of \$0.213583 for the purposes of Maintenance and Operation, \$0.146495 for the payment of Principal and Interest on debt of the City, and that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.360078 which is effectively a 11.26% increase in the tax rate; providing for a lien on all real and personal property to secure payment of taxes due thereon; containing a severability clause; repealing all ordinances and parts thereof in conflict herewith; and providing an effective date. This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 12.82% and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately (negative) \$-6.93.**

Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive, addressed the Council. Ms. Rutledge stated she is opposed to the tax rate because the Council has not been transparent about what they are taxing citizens for; you have changed a lot of the Capital Improvement Projects; a lot of people opposed the utility rate increases. Ms. Rutledge said for an 11.26% increase she did not see that taxpayer are

getting any benefit for it and it hasn't been discussed in public.

Director of Finance Robbie Sorrell said this is the second reading of the Ordinance and there has not been any change since the Council approved the first reading.

Council Member Rangel said when Council began the budget workshops, they wanted to start with a high tax rate so that potentially lower once the certified appraised roll was received. Ms. Rangel stated Council was already looking at being \$830,000 plus under and she would like to discuss maybe considering a lower tax rate because this is going to be an increase in the tax bill to taxpayers. Council Member Rangel stated we have an increased appraisal rate.

City Manager Shrauner said we started at being \$800,000 over budget and taking from reserves, not under.

Council Member Rangel stated the originally proposed rate was \$0.30078 which would put us under, because our expenditures would be over our resources, at \$380,000. Council Member Rangel stated if we were already anticipating that, couldn't we further reduce the tax rate. Council Member Rangel said in the Budget Workshop Council was provided the Consolidated Resources vs. Expenditure Summary that if we adopted the Unused Increment with sales tax increase prior to the certified appraisal roll coming in and that we would be under \$830,427 short. Council Member Rangel explained Ms. Shrauner provided the Council a handout with the appraisal rolls included that gave Council an updated under value still with the Unused Increment with sales tax increase of \$449,352. We were already looking at being under \$830,417 so we could still potentially move that tax rate down a little bit, still sitting at the same \$800,000 plus that we were going to be over.

City Manager Shrauner stated when Council started the Budget Workshops, we used our projected estimates from last year and we were \$800,000 in the hole, and when we got our estimated appraisals if we picked last year's tax rate, we would have been \$800,000 in the hole. Ms. Shrauner explained we have made cuts and moved forward with the tax rate that the Council considered and with our certified roll we were only about \$300,000 in the hole. Ms. Shrauner said that last year's appraisal numbers to this year's appraisal numbers took us from \$800,000 in the hole to \$300,000 in the hole, plus the budget cuts we made to balance at the \$300,000. Ms. Shrauner explained if you go to a lower tax rate, we will either need to pull more from reserves or cut the budget more.

Council Member Rangel said last year's taxable rate was \$273,658 and you are looking at a 11.33% increase from 20-22 at the estimated \$304,659, so will that offset anything?

Ms. Shrauner stated that increase amounted to \$243,085 added to our budget, so part of that offset our \$300,000 in the hole.

Council Member Rangel stated Council talked about the fact that we have to play catch-up; our reserves are low, and she doesn't want this at the taxpayers' expense, and they are already looking at increased appraisal rates. Council Member Rangel said we could try to offset that burden on them, and that is her priority. Council Member Rangel added she would ask that department directors be very conservative throughout this next budget year, so those potential

overages could go back into reserves.

Ms. Shrauner said the City has to build up its reserves; that is a priority. Ms. Shrauner expressed everyone has to be conservative, but we have to put the money there that they will potentially need.

Mayor Jayroe stated that according to the information statement that the Council has that came with this “the tax rate will effectively be raised by 12.8% and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately (negative) \$-6.93. Mayor Jayroe said we are not taking high advantage of the taxpayers.

Ms. Shrauner explained if we go to some of the lower rates, the way that it is required to be split out, the City’s M&O would be reduced to lower than we had last year, and our I & S would be increased. Ms. Shrauner said if we want to roll back the tax rate, we need to be cognizant that we are going to have less operating money than we had last year. Ms. Shrauner stated we don’t make those numbers; those numbers are given to us by the appraisal district. Ms. Shrauner said if we want to lower the tax rate, we have three lower options and some of those options are detrimental to our operations because they give us less operating money.

Council Member Rangel said the 180-day reserve was talked about and it was mentioned that one good development coming in could put us right back and fluff that reserve back where it needs to be. Council Member Rangel asked if that was realistic and something we can capture in the next fiscal year.

Ms. Shrauner explained that what was talked about was developer contributions and that has to be negotiated and agreed upon. Ms. Shrauner said we have to be realistic, and we can’t be speculative about who may or may not give us money.

Council Member Hale stated this will be the City Manager’s true test because it is the first full year with the City, working with staff to apply the policy that the Council has been very clear about, particularly the maintenance side of it – those dollars need to be spent, but other unspent dollars can be rolled into reserves. Council Member Hale expressed she thought staff has done a great job on the budget and worked hard with Council to develop this Budget and the tax rate. Council Member said it is not perfect, it is real dollars, and it is real lives we are working with, but until we can adjust some of the impact fees and adjust some of these other things, we really are not clawing our way out of a hole, we are treading in water because we are still not building. Council Member Hale expressed that she wants to trust that the leadership team that Council has put together are going to do the things that Council has asked them to do. Council Member Hale added she has no recommendations for change at this point, as we are way down the line and have had plenty of opportunity to discuss.

Mayor Jayroe stated Council has looked at the possibilities that they would possibly see; talked about new development and all sorts of things. Mayor Jayroe expressed to base a budget on something that we don’t know for sure is going to happen is foolish and we can’t do that.

Council Member Rangel stated she did appreciate all the work that was done and the budget cuts that were made. Council Member Rangel said she does support the fact that the City Manager



is working us in the right direction, but she wants to be clear that the expectations are to be fiscally conservative through the budget year so we can do better next year.

Ms. Shrauner asked Council to reread her first budget letter, and that may give them a better picture of what kind of hole we are in and see what those issues are. Ms. Shrauner said another thing was found on the insurance for the old City Hall. Ms. Shrauner stated that will give you a better picture of where we started from; it didn't start from last year's number.

Council Member Brundrett gave a brief history by saying that Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman and himself were on Council in 2021 when we adopted a No New Revenue rate and that was a difficult process. Council Member Brundrett said we were able to do it then, but since then we have decreased the rate and it hasn't kept up with the appraisal rate; so, we're trending downwards on our tax rates and maybe someday we can get caught up and see some true tax savings to everyone. Council Member Brundrett stated as far as what we have today, he does not see that we can lower the rate much more, if at all, and not keep digging ourselves in a hole.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman said as Council Member Brundrett stated, we were able to do that in the past and we are digging ourselves out of a hole. Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman expressed she does not want to take away the services we provide to our City residents and even to the County sometimes, because we try to work together. Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman stated she did not see where the rate could be lowered this year without having future problems by not having that money in our budget or reserves.

**MOTION:** Council Member Hale moved to approve the second and final reading of an Ordinance of the City of Rockport approving the assessment and renditions for the 2023 taxable property as submitted by the Appraisal District; levying a tax rate for \$100.00 valuation for the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, for the Tax Year 2023 of \$0.213583 for the purposes of Maintenance and Operation, \$0.146495 for the payment of Principal and Interest on debt of the City, and that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.360078 which is effectively a 11.26% increase in the tax rate; providing for a lien on all real and personal property to secure payment of taxes due thereon; containing a severability clause; repealing all ordinances and parts thereof in conflict herewith; and providing an effective date. This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 12.82% and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately (negative) \$-6.93. Council Member Rangel seconded the motion. Mayor Jayroe conducted the roll call vote:

FOR MOTION: Council Member Rangel, Council Member Hale, Council Member Brundrett, Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman, and Mayor Jayroe.

AGAINST MOTION: None

Motion carried unanimously.

## **17. Deliberate and act to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.**

Director of Finance Robbie Sorrell said this ratifies the property tax increase reflected in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive, addressed the Council and commented that the Capital Improvement Plan is not clear, and she has never heard them discussed in a public meeting. Ms. Rutledge said she is asking for transparency; Council talked about it obviously off the record and the public has never heard about it in a public meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman said the Council has been talking about the Capital Improvement projects for at least the last three years in public meetings stating what we would like to do. Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman explained new projects may have been added, and some may have been done, public meetings have been held about them and they have been in the que for many years due to not having the funds to get those items done. Mayor Pro-Hattman stated that hopefully by building the reserves we can start getting these projects done.

City Manager Shrauner said Council was in the meeting where it was discussed that there was no need to start scheduling the capital improvement projects until we finish spending grant funds and the unspent bond proceeds. Ms. Shrauner stated we do not have the money; we have not had the money for the capital improvement projects; you will have to take out debt to fund those or have to build out a fund. Ms. Shrauner explained that all of the unspent bond projects need to be completed first before we move to the capital improvement plan that was approved five years ago, or however long ago you received it – it hasn't changed, it's still the same.

Council Member Hale said to try and stay on track with this Agenda item, she first wanted to thank the Mayor for allowing citizens to comment but that doesn't necessarily mean that's it accurate, nor is the accusation of any conversation that is happening outside the public meeting; staff is able to send us documents to allow us to prepare for meetings, but that does not mean that we are having conversations.

**MOTION:** Council Member Hale moved to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. Council Member Brundrett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **18. City Manager Report:**

### **A. Projects**

City Manager Shrauner reported:

- 1) Starting cholorization burnout this week – is safe levels
- 2) The rake replacement at the wastewater treatment plan funded earlier in the year should have started yesterday
- 3) On the Orleans Street drainage project, the GLO project, we found latent defects from the previous contractor so we are working through those through the appropriate methods to get those taken care of; it will slow down the project significantly
- 4) Concho Street – one box left and a hump in the road; they are going across Business Highway 35 right now and that is a 4-week process with detour.
- 5) Deploying new website; we will be moved to rockporttx.gov as opposed to cityofrockport.com and will see that in a couple of weeks.

## 19. Reports from Council.

At this time, the City Council will report/update on activities in respective Wards, and all committee assignments, which may include the following: Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation; Aransas Pathways Steering Committee; Building and Standards Commission; Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program; Coastal Bend Council of Government; Coastal Bend Mayors Group; Park & Leisure Services Advisory Board; Planning & Zoning Commission; Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce; Aransas County Storm Water Management Advisory Committee; Swimming Pool Operations Advisory Committee; Tourism Development Council; Tree & Landscape Committee; YMCA Development Committee; Texas Maritime Museum, Fulton Mansion, Rockport Center for the Arts, Aransas County, Aransas County Independent School District, Aransas County Navigation District, Town of Fulton, and Texas Municipal League. No formal action can be taken on these items at this time.

Council Member Rangel asked everyone to take precaution when approaching the detour at Business Highway 35. Council Member Rangel reported she spent some time mingling Downtown and enjoyed visiting with constituents in her Ward.

Council Member Hale asked Police Chief Stevens if he has had any complaints about the TxDOT rerouting of traffic around the Live Oak School area.

Chief Stevens said he was worried about that at the beginning, but there has not been any issues.

Council Member Hale asked the City Manager how the monthly budget updates will start coming to Council.

City Manager Shrauner stated that at the second Council meeting of each month, the Director of Finance should have the monthly financials on the dais; if they are not there it means something has gone wrong.

Council Member Hale said the Planning and Zoning Commission is continuing to meet and she thinks we are making good progress there.

Council Member Brundrett reported he and the Mayor attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Humane Society Banquet Gala this past Friday night and it was very well attended and a great event that raised a substantial amount of money for the Aransas County Humane Society. Council Member Brundrett asked that when the contractor comes up with a solution on the GLO project that we get that information out to the public. Council Member Brundrett said there is a hump on Business Highway 35.

Ms. Shrauner said Urban Engineering has presented a solution to Merchants and we are waiting for a response from Merchants.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho said the hump on Business Highway 35 will come out.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman stated she appreciated the Council approving the expenditures from the Tree Mitigation Fund. Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman said there is a Tree and Landscape Committee Meeting tomorrow and working on an Arbor Day event and encouraged everyone to

volunteer and participate.

Mayor Jayroe said this is the 29<sup>th</sup> City budget that he has had anything to do with and he cannot remember one of them that was fun. Mayor Jayroe said this one was about as bad of one as he has seen and it is because we are in bad times when people are not making more money and there are issues going on, but the City has to pay their bills just like the public does and it is very difficult to do. Mayor Jayroe stated if someone comes in and says I have a piece of paper and I can't read the numbers on it because it is a poor copy we went through workshops, we went through planning meetings and we went through all sorts of things and there was paper passed out every time we have a meeting. Mayor Jayroe continued saying that every time we got through with a meeting, someone had said to the City Manager "see if you can find some more ways to cut money", so things change; when we get paperwork back, it is different because the last time we looked at it the numbers were bigger and they got moved around and changed and he regrets that it is impossible for everyone to always find the piece of paper that is absolutely right, but they are there. Mayor Jayroe added the City Manager has worked very hard and so has the new Director of Finance at Council's direction, and there were reasonable questions that this Council had and were answered. Mayor Jayroe expressed the Council has done a tremendous job and he appreciates them and Staff for all the work done. Mayor Jayroe stated he wished more of the public would attend these meetings to see what goes on to conduct business for them because we have 10,000 citizens and 6,000 voters and some times we hear from 10 people.

### **Executive Session**

City Council will hold an executive session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

Section 551.071 Consultations with Attorney seeking the advice of attorney about pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer; and on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter: Nguyen litigation.

### **Open Session**

City Council will reconvene into open session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to take any actions necessary related to the executive sessions noted herein, or regular agenda items, noted above, and/or related items.


No Executive Session was held.

### **17. Adjournment.**

At 7:50 p.m., Council Member Brundrett moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hale. Motion carried unanimously.



**APPROVED:**

  
Tim Jayroe, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Teresa Valdez, City Secretary