

THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON HELD SEPTEMBER 4, 2008 - 8:30 A.M.

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Thomas, CM Mahoney, CM Beeton, MPT Weber, CM Colbert, CM Fennewald, CM Woods (9:15 P.M.)
Staff: City Manager LeBlanc, City Attorney Green, City Secretary Lawrence, Finance Director Miller

III. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR ACTION GIVING CITY MANAGER DIRECTION REGARDING FY09 BUDGET.

Mr. LeBlanc stated he was requesting guidance from Council on some of the budget items.

Employee COLA

MPT Weber moved to approve 3% Cost of Living Allowance for salaries and a 3% increase for the pension plan in both the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund. Second by CM Colbert.

After discussion, **CM Fennewald moved to amend the motion to vote on the salary increase and the pension increase separately. Second by CM Mahoney.**

Vote on amendment: In Favor: CM Mahoney, CM Beeton, CM Colbert, CM Fennewald, Mayor Thomas, CM Woods. Opposed: MPT Weber. Motion carried.

CM Mahoney moved to approve a 3% COLA increase to civilian employees salaries. Second by CM Colbert.

CM Woods moved to amend the motion to increase the COLA of employees making less than \$33,000 a year to 4% and the employees above \$33,000 will receive a 3% increase in the COLA.

After discussion, **CM Woods moved amend his amendment to change the 4% and 3% salary increases to a \$1200 increase in the base pay of all civilian employees. CM Colbert did not accept the amendment.**

Vote on 4% and 3% amendment: In favor: MPT Weber, CM Woods. Opposed: CM Mahoney, CM Beeton, Mayor Thomas, CM Colbert, CM Fennewald. Motion failed.

CM Beeton moved to amend the main motion to approve a \$1200 raise for every employee. Second by CM Woods. Vote: In favor: CM Beeton, CM Woods. Opposed: CM Mahoney, MPT Weber, Mayor Thomas, CM Colbert, CM Fennewald. Motion to amend failed.

Vote on main motion to approve a 3% in the COLA for all civilian employees. In favor: CM Mahoney, MPT Weber, Mayor Thomas, CM Colbert, CM Fennewald. Opposed: CM Beeton, CM Woods. Motion carried.

Pension Plan

CM Fennewald moved to approve the 3% contribution from the City to the civilian employee pension fund as proposed by Mr. LeBlanc. Second by CM Mahoney.

Vote: In favor: CM Mahoney, MPT Weber, Mayor Thomas, CM Colbert, CM Fennewald, CM Woods. Opposed: CM Beeton. Motion carried.

Streaming Video

CM Fennewald moved to approve \$25,000 for Streaming Video of Council meetings. Second by CM Beeton.

Vote: In favor: CM Mahoney, CM Beeton, CM Colbert, Mayor Thomas, CM Colbert, CM Woods. Opposed: MPT Weber. Motion carried.

Televising Council Workshops

CM Fennewald moved to televise Council Workshops. Second by CM Beeton.

Vote: In favor: CM Mahoney, CM Beeton, Mayor Thomas, CM Colbert, CM Fennewald, Opposed: MPT Weber. Abstaining: CM Woods. Motion carried.

CM Woods said he supported the concept but wanted to know the cost before voting.

May Election/\$35,000

CM Mahoney moved to approve \$35,000 to cover the cost of a May Election. Second by CM Woods.

After discussion, CM Fennewald moved to amend the motion to place a \$1.00 place holder in the budget for a May Election. Seconded by CM Beeton.

Vote to amend the motion the amendment: In favor: CM Beeton, Mayor Thomas, CM Fennewald, CM Colbert, CM Woods. Opposed: MPT Weber, CM Mahoney. Motion carried.

Vote on the amendment: In favor: CM Beeton, Mayor Thomas, CM Fennewald, CM Colbert, CM Woods. Opposed: CM Mahoney, MPT Weber. Motion carried.

Add funding to move the vacant Assistant City Attorney position from an entry level to a more experienced level with fringe benefits.

CM Fennewald moved approval to budget this item. Second by CM Woods. Unanimously approved.

Out Source the Municipal Prosecutor (3 times per week)

CM Fennewald moved approval to budget this item. Second by CM Woods. Unanimously approved.

Haz Mat/Rescue Truck (Estate Fund) @ \$184,000 plus 5 year lease/purchase @ \$35,000 per year)

Chief Varella is requesting a haz mat/rescue truck. He has included a \$35,000 lease/purchase option for consideration in addition to the \$184,000 because it would take \$360,000 to buy this unit.

CM Mahoney moved to direct the Fire Department to purchase the equipment (a Rescue truck that will carry additional rescue and haz mat equipment) at a cost of \$35,000 per year for five years. Second by CM Colbert. Unanimously approved.

CM Fennewald left the meeting.

Water, Sewer Rate Increase

CM Beeton moved to support the water and sewer rate increase as proposed by the Public Works Director Brandon Wade. Second by CM Colbert. Unanimously approved by those present. CM Fennewald absent.

\$125,000 to the County Health District for salary increases for its employees

CM Beeton said she did not support the allocation of \$125,000 to the County Health District for salary increases for its employees.

MPT Weber moved to support the allocation of \$125,000 to the County Health District for salary increases for its employees. Second by CM Mahoney.

After discussion, the vote was as follows: In favor: CM Mahoney, MPT Weber, Mayor Thomas, CM Colbert, CM Woods. Opposed. CM Beeton CM Fennewald had left the meeting and did not vote. Motion carried.

CM Beeton stated she did not understand the relationship between the Fire Department and the EMS. It appears to her to be an inefficient system. She has never seen the contract with EMS and she would like to study that before she commits to \$125,000 in the budget. She is not ready to make a statement about that today and that is why she is not voting in favor.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.