

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the City Council of the City of Lake Jackson met on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in Regular Session at 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, Lake Jackson City Hall in the Alice Rodgers Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

Gerald Roznovsky, Mayor
Rhonda Seth, Mayor Pro-Tem
Matt Broaddus, Councilmember
Vinay Singhanian, Councilmember
Jon "J.B." Baker, Councilmember

Absent:
Chase Blanchard, Councilmember

Modesto Mundo, City Manager
Meagan Borth, Asst. City Manager
Sherri Russell, City Attorney
Sally Villarreal, City Secretary
Robin Hyden, Parks and Rec Director
Sal Aguirre, City Engineer
Sabrina England, PW Director
Milford John-Williams, Asst. to the CM
James Bryson, Finance Director
Paul Kibodeaux, Police Chief
Lora-Marie Bernard, PIO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Broaddus led the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Baker led the invocation.

VISITORS COMMENTS

No visitor comments.

PRESENTATIONS

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Freeport Project / Project Manager - Mr. Eddie Irigoyen

Mr. Irigoyen acknowledged their non-federal sponsor is Velasco Drainage District (VDD). He stated the project is the result of a Sabine and Galveston study completed in 2017. Their goal is to have a more resilient coast. They plan on adding flood walls, levee raising, a possible lift gate with drainage structures, and road closures on private roads.

They are currently in their design phase with a completion ETA of 2025. Afterwards they will move onto construction with a current ETA of 2028. The project was funded by both the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (65%) and by their (35%) non-federal sponsor. Mr. Irigoyen demonstrated possible contract plans.

Mayor Roznovsky asked about the direction of the drainage. Mr. Irigoyen mentioned there is a chance that they will need to create more pump stations, but VDD will add three additional pump stations.

Mr. Irigoyen shared the website (<https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/S2G>) and noted that all updates will be

posted. Their first in person public open house will be held on February 2, 2023, at the Civic Center from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Roznovsky questioned if the taxpayers in the VDD will be picking up the tab. Mr. Irigoyen confirmed that they will. Mayor Roznovsky followed up by asking the VDD representatives what the population is. VDD representative, Mr. Gallion stated their latest study reported a population of over 100,000 people.

Mayor Roznovsky asked how the drainage will look with the northern floods coming down and how it will be impacted by the potential blocking and raising of levees. Mr. Irigoyen noted that regardless of how high they make the levy or flood walls they cannot make the interior drainage worse than it is. It will stay the same or improve.

Councilmember Singhania stated that they will block the water from going out and questioned how they will keep it the same.

Mr. Irigoyen stated their engineering team is not only looking at the addition of a liftgate. If they add the liftgate they will be required to update the drainage structures and add pump stations, etc. He emphasized the gate is considered "to be determined" as they are looking at other options.

Councilmember Seth noted our area is heavily impacted by northern construction because it changes the drainage, the flow and how much water we receive. She asked how that is taken into consideration when completing studies. Mr. Irigoyen stated whatever plan takes place cannot make the situation worse.

Councilmember Singhania advised making the plan net positive to prevent another Harvey situation.

Mayor Roznovsky asked what size storm this is being designed to handle. Mr. Irigoyen answered there is no specific size storm they are designing for. Mayor Roznovsky suggested a demonstration or a reference point to be able to view. Mr. Irigoyen will advise the technical team to prepare a demonstration to share with the public.

Councilmember Baker asked what locations were studied. Mr. Irigoyen answered Sabine Pass to Galveston (including Freeport, Port Arthur, and Orange). Councilmember Baker felt it should have been expanded to St. Bernard since it recently pushed water into the Brazos and caused flooding.

Mr. Irigoyen stated the study is a result of Hurricane Ike and noted that there will be more information at the open house.

Mr. Mundo had a question for VDD about the project funding. Mr. Gallion with VDD stated the in-kind cost would be approximately \$12 million. The total cost of the project would be \$249 million. Those funds have not been addressed yet. Mr. Irigoyen shared that they are rescoping and he feels that they will have significant cost savings if they do not go with the liftgate.

Mayor Roznovsky thanked Mr. Irigoyen for his presentation.

Mitigation Method of Distribution Project Submittal

Mr. John-Williams went over the background:

- September 6 – GLO approved Houston-Galveston Area Council's Method of Distribution for the allocation of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Regional Mitigation Program funds to counties and local jurisdictions Lake Jackson allocation - \$2,138,654.
- November 21 – Council approved authorization for City Manager to execute a contract with Langford Community Management Services

The requirements for the project's funded would include:

- Drainage mitigation and 50% of the area affected must be from an area with income below 50%.

The projects below meet the criteria.

Project Details

- Ditch Improvements (N_ALT1)
 - Widen and Slope Pave Ditch upstream of from N. Center Way to Dixie Drive
- Drainage Ditch / Street Crossing Improvements (N_ALT1)
 - Upsize Culverts & Replace Street Pavement @ N. Center Way
 - Upsize Culverts & Replace Street Pavement @ Mulberry St.
 - Upsize Culverts & Replace Street Pavement @ Forest Oaks Ln.
 - Upsize Culverts & Replace Street Pavement @ N. Dixie Dr.
- Drainage Conveyance Improvements (N_ALT1-1)
 - Upsize Culverts from Ash Ln. to Sycamore St.

- Addresses projects from Freese and Nichols 2019 Eastside Drainage Study

Mr. John- Williams went over the updates below:

- January 9 – Project application to GLO submitted on behalf of Lake Jackson by Langford
- January 18 – Review Statement of Qualifications of Engineering Firms
- TBD – Return to Council for authorization of Engineering Services contract.
- 2 – 3 months – Request for Information from GLO

Mayor Roznovsky thanked Mr. John-Williams for the update.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Mr. John-Williams stated this is the 31st year the city has received this prestigious award.

Mayor Roznovsky thanked Mr. John-Williams for the presentation and efforts.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed below within the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the City Council and may be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussing of items unless a Councilmember requests, in which event the item may be moved to Regular Agenda.

1. Approval of minutes – January 3, 2023
2. Ordinance No. 2262 amending Ch. 90 Subdivisions to make clear cutting a separate offense and to provide for civil and criminal penalties for unauthorized tree removal for all properties except platted residential lots – second reading
3. Approve Asset Forfeiture Report from the Police Department
4. Authorize City Manager to execute a contract with Gomez Flooring Covering through BuyBoard Contract #642-21 for replacement of flooring, wall carpet and painting in the Civic Room Plaza Rooms and at Jasmine Hall in an amount not to exceed \$64,000 as budgeted

On motion by Councilmember Singhania, seconded by Councilmember Baker with all present members voting “aye,” the consent agenda was approved as follows:

1. Approval of minutes – January 3, 2023 – **approved.**
2. Ordinance No. 2262 amending Ch. 90 Subdivisions to make clear cutting a separate offense and to provide for civil and criminal penalties for unauthorized tree removal for all properties except platted residential lots – second reading – **approved.**
3. Approve Asset Forfeiture Report from the Police Department – **approved.**
4. Authorize City Manager to execute a contract with Gomez Flooring Covering through BuyBoard Contract #642-21 for replacement of flooring, wall carpet and painting in the Civic Room Plaza Rooms and at Jasmine Hall in an amount not to exceed \$64,000 as budgeted – **approved.**

CONSIDER REQUEST TO CLOSE A PORTION OF CIRCLE WAY IN FRONT OF BODEGA FOR A CAR SHOW ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023, FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M

Mayor Roznovsky stated there was a change in date to Friday, January 27, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Devine stated a lot of money is being spent, with a lot of people coming out to these events. The road will be physically blocked for safety. Mr. Mundo stated if approved, Mr. Devine would fill out a form for the roadblocks with instructions.

Mr. Mundo asked if any of the other businesses had any concerns. Mr. Devine stated that he has reached out to the surrounding businesses and most of the businesses were understanding.

On motion by Councilmember Seth, seconded by Councilmember Singhania with all present members voting “aye,” the request to close a portion of Circle Way in front of Bodega for a car show on Friday, January 27, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. was approved.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SPCA TO EXTEND THE TERM FOR ONE YEAR

Ms. Borth stated the animal control facility is taking a little more time than anticipated. This request is to extend the current animal control contract with The SPCA for an additional year. The other participating cities agree with the extension as well. This extension will be to March 1, 2024.

Councilmember Baker asked if the reason they were behind was due to material. Ms. Borth explained that the two previous bids were rejected because they were significantly over budget.

Ms. Borth stated they are going out for a rebid. The advertisements will begin January 15, 2023, and the bid opening will be held on February 22, 2023.

Construction should take approximately one year. The budget amount will be the same for the contract.

Mayor Roznovsky asked if it goes past March 1, 2024, and the contract goes month to month, he would like to see that the SPCA be given more than a 30-day notice for them to transition.

Ms. Russell stated the contract is for a definite one year. Mayor Roznovsky stated if the contract is not terminated by March 1, 2024, to ensure we give a 60-days' notice before termination. Ms. Russell stated she will include termination language in the contract.

Ms. Russell stated we will bring the contract back to the next meeting.

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Bryson reviewed the financial reports.

Mayor Roznovsky thanked Mr. Bryson for bringing the detailed reports to council.

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

a. 2023 Strategic Plan Review:

Ms. Borth went over the 2023 strategic plan draft. She stated that council will have their strategic planning meeting on February 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. and wanted to give them time to look over for suggestions. Councilmember Singhania noted that February 27th would conflict with Brazoria County days. A new date will be decided on.

b. May Election Voting Location:

Ms. Villarreal updated the council that the voting location has gone back to the civic center for all elections.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Mr. Aguirre gave an update on construction projects.

Mayor Roznovsky mentioned that the sidewalks are 10-ft. wide on That Way to tie the hike and bike trails into downtown.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Richard Wood – 102 This Way

Mr. Wood encouraged council to keep the pedestrian friendly push in mind for the proposed development in the HEB area. He suggested if council has the capabilities of adding additional parking to keep the downtown patrons in mind. Mr. Wood believes it will benefit everyone's concerns and businesses downtown.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Councilmember Singhania asked if the city has any say on the ~~CenterPoint~~ AT&T wiring boxes that are in bad shape.
- Councilmember Baker shared that there was a great turnout at the MLK parade and banquet.
- Mayor Roznovsky stated the Fire Department banquet turned out well.

- Councilmember Broaddus stated his family had previously bought a ride on the firetruck to school at a fundraising event. They were able to have the ride on Friday, it was very nice, as the kids enjoyed it a lot. He thanked the fire department for making it possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Roznovsky adjourned to executive session at 7:46 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Roznovsky reconvened to open session at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

These minutes read and approved this 6th day of February 2023.

Gerald Roznovsky, Mayor

Sally Villarreal, City Secretary