

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

The WGIPOA held a Board of Directors Meeting on January 20, 2017 at the Galveston Country Club. Jerry Mohn called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. A quorum was established by the attendance of Boyd Carr – Isla Del Sol, Bet Jennings – Laffites Cove, Charley Jones – Sea Isle, Barbara Hankins – Sportsman Road, Jay Lendrum – Dunes of West Beach, Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach, Steve Kendziera – Jamaica Beach, and Craig Vance – Terramar. Susan Gonzales – CKM was present.

Jerry Mohn introduced the public officials and candidates: Mayor Jim Yarborough, Judge Lonnie Cox, GISD Board Trustee – Johnny Smecca, Tx State Representative – Wayne Faircloth, County Commissioner – Joe Giusti, City Council – Carolyn Sunseri, and Brian Maxwell – City Manager. The new Police Chief Vernon Hale was introduced.

Candidates: Donnie Quintanilla – County Judge Court No. 2, State Representative – Mays Middleton, Kevin O’Brien for County Commissioner, Lonnie Cox – County Judge, and Jim Schweitzer-Justice of the Peace.

Brian Maxwell gave a report on the water condition stating we are at level 4 on a contingency plan, the freeze compounded the water and we were down to 25% of compacity. We are about 100% of the tanks. Jamaica Beach and Pirates Beach are not at 100% at this time. If you see water pooled in yards or running water call the City.

Minutes & financial report: Motion by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Charley Jones the Board approved the October & December 2017 minutes and financial reports of January 17, 2018, by unanimous vote.

District 6 Happenings – Carolyn Sunseri: Carolyn has filed for re-election to City Council. Carolyn stated that the City staff have been working hard to resolve the water issues. She asked members to go to the website to report water leaks. She also suggested that members have their contractor or neighbor to check their homes during extreme weather conditions. The new Police Chief has rented a home in Sea Isle and is becoming familiar with the West end. There is a lot a street work and the City is on schedule. Kyle Hockersmith has projects in Bermuda Beach, Spanish Grant, Sportsman Road and Sea Isle. The staff are working on the LDR’s and would appreciate comments.

Mayor Jim Yarborough – State of Galveston

Mayor Yarborough stated he is bullish on Galveston and is moving forward on many projects. Tourism will be managed by the Parks Board, UTMB is expanding, higher education is expanding,

Martine industry has a new Port Director who is responsible for administration of all seaport functions. The Port is fourth in the Country for Cruise Ships and a new strategic plan will be implemented for expansion.

The Bond issue projects will meet their deadlines. During all the road work there is underground utilities and sewer repair going on.

Pelican Island Bridge belongs to the Navigation District. TexDot is putting \$45 million in the project – we are getting a new bridge.

Mayor Yarborough stated the City is looking at how we manage our assets. Currently we have duplication of work with the City, Port of Galveston, and the Parks Board that can be condensed down. Each department has related activities with the same responsibilities. There is too much duplication of the same responsibilities. The Parks Board needs to handle the beach & tourism, the Wharf and Navigation District need to be merged.

The biggest changes have been north of Broadway and west 25th Street. Since Ike Hurricane new public housing is better than prior to the Hurricane. There is a new Fire Station 26 that is being built across from the old one near City Hall..

The City is working on increasing water capacity and the Land Development Regulations (LDR) had not been updated since 1991 and are up for review in 2020.

John Lee is working on the beach access plan with a goal of fewer beach access points and with more amenities, such as restrooms. The City is talking with the County concerning Beach Parks – The City may manage them or let the Parks Board manage. Pocket Park #4 may be used for beach access – comfort stations may be added, a food truck park – expected to be implemented this year.

Other: WGIPOA Parking at future meetings will be in the rear – there is access to the meeting room in the back.

Adjourned at 10:30 AM.