

WEST GALVESTON ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting January 15, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom.

- 1. Call to order Jerry Mohn**

- 2. Introduce Board Members Present**
 - **Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach**
 - **Craig Vance – Terramar**
 - **John Lightfoot – Pointe San Luis**
 - **Doug Little – Pirates POA**
 - **Kim Van Camp – Condos**
 - **Tony Nims – Dunes of West Beach**
 - **Boyd Carr – Isla del Sol**
 - **Julie Greenwell – Sea Isle**
 - **Dan Walsh – Spanish Grant Bay**
 - **Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach**
 - **Debbie Reinhart – Beachside Village**
 - **Susan Gonzales – representing various POA's**

- 3. Introduce Officials not on the agenda**
 - **Brandon Hill – Coastal Resources Manager**
 - **City Council Member Bill Quiroga**
 - **Jeffrey Hill – Planning Commissioner**
 - **Marty Fluke – Parks Board Trustee**

- 4. Introduce candidates for office**
 - **Janet Hoffman – County Treasurer**
 - **Blake Appfel – Justice of the Peace**
 - **Terri Leo Wilson – HD 23 Candidate**

- 5. Approve October 16, 2021 minutes and the December 31, 2021, financials.**
 - **Minutes approved by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Craig Vance.**
 - **Financials approved by Peggy Zahler and seconded by John Lightfoot.**

- 6. District 6 Happenings – City Council Member Marie Robb**
 - **Getting more services for District 6.**
 - **Meeting last weekend with Texas Gas for getting gas to District. Apply with contact information on FaceBook “Gas For The West End”.**
 - **CEPRA project approved from 7 Mile Road to 13 Mile Road.**
 - **Discussions with USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers) for beneficial reuse of dredge sand.**
 - **Pothole brigade out in force and getting through neighborhoods.**
 - **FM3005 road construction project is wrapping up. Final issues are being resolved.**
 - **If you have electrical outtages, please contact Marie Robb via text and she can also reach out to CenterPoint Energy.**

- 7. Sally Bakko - Director of Policy and Governmental Relations**
 - **Coastal Texas Study, storm surge protection project updates. USACE – Galveston District, is hosting various groups regarding the project alignments including the Netherland loch building engineers.**

- Senate and house sub-committee are kicking off Water Resources Development Act which directly appropriates authority and funding to USACE.
- Currently working to appropriate money for development while the approval of the project is going through.
- Please go to the GCPD's website for more information www.gcpdtexas.com.

8. Galveston Police Report – Lt. Joel Caldwell

- Rash of car burglaries, with the majority being to unsecured vehicles. Please make sure you keep your cars and belongings locked at night.
- Majority of calls are for disturbances, followed by reckless driving.
- Call the Galveston Police Department's non-emergency phone line with any issues at (409) 765-3702. The number of calls determine the staffing sent to the West End.

9. Mayor Craig Brown – City of Galveston

- The City of Galveston is busy putting an emphasis on infrastructure including drainage systems. With \$54 MM received from the GLO, the City is putting an emphasis on pumps to move water from both nuisance and storm flooding. The rerouting of drainage pipes will work in conjunction with this pump project.
- Broadway is being lowered to allow water to flow more easily to the drainage features.
- Federal funding has been received to install "smart" water controls to be installed in order to control water flow remotely instead of at individual properties.
- Property tax reduction has been a major discussion point by the City Council who pledge to continue to reduce property taxes.
- Shriner's Hospital is continuing to move facilities to Galveston. This will increase pediatric care on the island.
- Affordable housing projects are being discussed.
- Parks Board – additional environmental work is being conducted to build two new parks on the island.
- A new Recycling Center is planned to be constructed in Galveston. It is not a money maker, but adds to the quality of life to our residents.
- Port of Galveston is continuing to bring in profit to the City. A vigorous dredging project is planned to accommodate more and larger vessels into our port.
- Cruise lines along Harborside and Pier 10 are continuing to expand, including Royal Caribbean's \$115 MM investment. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) is allowing cruises to move forward with sailing and setting their own safety requirements.
- The Pelican Island Bridge project is on the agenda and should be moving forward soon. 1,200 acres of land is awaiting development.
- Tourism is booming and this spring and summer are expected to exceed projections. Stewart Beach Park is getting upgrades to improve quality for visitors. The accounting of tourism is being looked at less with the number of visitors, but the quality of life for the visitors and residents alike.
- Short Term Rentals (STRs) are taxed with a HOT-tax (similar to hotel taxing). These taxes help to pay for handling nuisance complaints.
- Sandhill Crane Soccer Complex and Crockett Ball fields continuing to be improved.
- The construction of a National Juneteenth Museum is being discussed.
- USS Texas Foundation will be refurbishing the USS Texas in Galveston.
- COVID – Last week, the highest percentage of positive test results was in Galveston.
- The City Council is pushing for a higher priority in providing funding and remediation efforts for the West End.
- Coastal Development Permits are being responded to in 3 weeks.
- Beach Access Plan is under a conditional approval from the GLO (Texas General Land Office). This allows for the upcoming re-write of the Beach Access Plan to fit with our community.

10. City Manager Brian Maxwell – City of Galveston

- Clarification - Affordable Housing is not necessarily low income housing, but housing affordable to citizens under current pay rates.
- Road projects have slowed due to the weather. When the soil temperature drops below 60 degrees Fahrenheit as asphalt has difficulties adhering to the surface structure and thus halts the construction projects.

- The pump station upgrades include allowing for water pressure to remain up even if the Airport Pump Station goes down. The drainage development projects are now coming in above estimated costs due to labor and parts shortages. This is due to COVID impacts to personnel (including those at the City) and parts requiring chips for automated parts.
- The City of Galveston is one of the largest property owners in Santa Fe, Texas due to the number of groundwater pumping wells. Some of these wells are proposed to be sold to other water districts.
- Wastewater projects in Pirate's Beach and Terramar are ongoing. Some issues do to natural saltwater/brine influences to the systems and are being redesigned and engineered.
- New sanitation and police trucks have been delayed through September.
- Financial reserves at the City are still at 120 days, as required by the City's insurance bonding agencies. This allows to pay for services after disasters prior to being reimbursed by the state or federal agencies.
- Youth needs include sports facilities for both soccer and softball.
- Adult needs include facilities for softball and dog parks, with an increase in pickle ball.

11. Other Topics

- Brandon Hill received multiple accolades from Mayor Craig Brown, City Manager Brian Maxwell, and Parks Board Member Peggy Zahler. His new exuberance and efforts are greatly appreciated.
- **Next Meeting: February 19, 2022 at the Galveston Country Club**

12. Adjournment