

A Regular Meeting of the Aransas Pass City Council was held on Monday February 1, 2021 via Video Conferencing livestreamed at <http://youtube.com/user/cityofaransaspass>, as allowed by the Governor's Order issued on March 16, 2020 in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. A notice of the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance in accordance with Section 551, Texas Government Code. Mayor Ramiro Gomez and Council Members Vickie Abrego, Jason Knight, Janet Moore and Carrie Scruggs were present. Also present was Interim City Manager Sandra Garcia and City Attorney Roxann Pais Cotroneo.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG.

Council Member Abrego gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The meeting was recessed into executive session at 6:02 pm under the provision of Section 551, Texas Government Code to discuss the authority of:

3.I Section 551.074, City Manager Employment Agreement for Gary Edwards

The council reconvened the meeting in open session at 6:06 pm.

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to approve a City Manager Employment Agreement between the City and Gary Edwards to begin on February 1, 2021, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and the motion passed with the following vote: Abrego, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye; Knight voting No.

4. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

4.I Update By Russell Soike, AG/CM Project Manager Regarding Conn Brown Harbor Road Project.

Mr. Soike reported that the Round-a-Bout is 90% complete, and lighting is complete and power should be turned on in about two weeks. He stated that they have begun construction on Phase 3 of the project, and the additional work of extending the apron is halfway complete. Mr. Soike stated that the total project is on scheduled and 50% to 55% complete.

Mayor Gomez inquired on the location of the hike/bike trail, and Mr. Soike responded it will be located on the waterside and the road. Mr. Gomez stated it was his understanding it was changed to the other side. Mr. Gomez commented that the current location is where business traffic comes in and out and can be dangerous.

A discussion ensued on the location of the hike/bike trail, and Mr. Soike stated he would contact the engineers and check the plans and report back to the city.

4.II Update On Harbor Master Building - LNV Engineering

Craig Forsythe, LNV Engineering distributed a handout depicting the Harbor Master building. Mr. Forsythe stated that the project was slow in starting due to issues with the metal building manufacture company, and consequently they are about 40 days behind schedule. He added that one of the issues was the bolts which has since been rectified, and there was also an issue with rusted bolts because galvanized bolts were not sent which has also been rectified. Mr. Forsythe stated that framing has begun and the project is about 55-60% complete. He stated that the original completion date was March 9, 2021 and with the delays, the new estimated completion date is April 18, 2021, but the contractor anticipated completion by the end of March.

Council members discussed the following: insulation vs. foam insulation and FEMA requirements; project completion date after March 9, 2021; bolts replaced and bolts painted; why galvanized bolts were not initially used; project oversight; and windstorm rating requirements and category.

5. **BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:**

There were no board appointment items.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

6.I Approval of January 13, 2021 and January 18, 2021 Special Meetings.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Moore to approve Item 6.I, seconded by Council Member Scruggs, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

There were no public hearing items.

8. **CITY MANAGER:**

8.I Consider and Act on Resolution No. 2021-962 ordering an election to be held in the City of Aransas Pass on May 1, 2021 for the purpose of electing a Mayor And Council Members to Places 1 and 3; authorizing a joint agreement with San Patricio County Elections Administrator for the conduct of the election; providing for procedures for holding such election, providing for notice of election and publication; providing for establishment of early voting polling place and designating election day polling place location, providing a severability clause; and providing an election date.

Mr. Edwards explained this item is to order the May 1, 2021 election, and added that the most recent election held in November presented some unique challenges. City Secretary Juarez stated the Election Code states that for elections held in November, we are required to use county precincts, which was the reason that in November we were required to set up polling places in Aransas, Nueces and San Patricio counties. However, in May elections there is more flexibility in the use of polling places and the this Resolution recommends the use of the Civic Center as the early voting polling place and election day polling place. Ms. Juarez further states that she has verified this with the Secretary of State and this is acceptable under the law.

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to approve Item 8.I, seconded by Council Member Knight, and the motion passed unanimously.

8.II Consider And Act To Appoint Gary Edwards, City Manager To The San Patricio County Economic Development Corporation Board Of Directors Through December 31, 2023.

Mr. Edwards stated that he previously served on the EDC board representing the City on economic development issues. This action would continue the policy of having the city manager on the EDC board.

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to appoint City Manager Gary Edwards to the EDC Board of Directors, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and the motion passed with the following vote: Abrego, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye; Knight abstained.

8.III Consider And Act To Approve First One-Year Option Of The Professional Real Broker Services Between City And Malynda Williams Through February 3, 2022.

Mr. Edwards stated that last year the council approved a one-year agreement with Ms. Williams with three one-year options, and this is approving the first one-year option.

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to approve Item 8.III, seconded by Council Member Abrego, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. **COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT:**

There were no Community Enrichment items.

10. **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:**

There were no Development Services items.

11. **FINANCE**

There were no Finance department items.

12. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

There were no Information Technology items.

13. **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

12.I POSTPONED
Annual Public Safety Report – 2020

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to postpone Item 12.I, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and the motion passed with the following vote: Abrego, Knight, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

12.II POSTPONED
Annual Use of Force Report – 2020

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to postpone Item 12.I, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and the motion passed with the following vote: Abrego, Knight, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

12.III POSTPONED
Racial Profiling Report – 2020

A motion was made by Council Member Scruggs to postpone Item 12.I, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and the motion passed with the following vote: Abrego, Knight, Moore and Scruggs voting Aye.

14. CITY COUNCIL OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mr. Edwards announced that a Workshop Meeting is planned for next month, and items to be discussed are: Driving in Unimproved Areas at Conn Brown Harbor and Signage at Lighthouse Lakes. He added that additional items may be added and recommended the following dates: February 22, 2021 or March 10, 2021. There was a consensus of the council to schedule the meeting on February 22, 2021.

15. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were no citizen comments.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The meeting was recessed into Executive Session at 6:45 pm under the provision of Section 551, Texas Government Code to discuss the authority of:

15.I Section 551.087 Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations Related To A Coffee Company.

The council reconvened in open session at 7:17 pm. Mayor Gomez announced that no action would be taken on the executive session items.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gomez adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Ramiro Gomez
Mayor

Mary Juarez
City Secretary

Approved on: _____