

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL PLANNING WORKSHOP

9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Rockport Service Center

2751 SH 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Charles J. Wax
Mayor Pro-Tem Pat Rios, Ward 3
Council Member Rusty Day, Ward 1
Council Member J. D. Villa, Ward 2
Council Member Barbara Gurtner, Ward 4

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Kevin Carruth
City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Finance Director Patty Howard
Police Chief Tim Jayroe
Public Works Director Mike Donoho
IT Director Brian Jacobs
Parks & Leisure Services Director Tom Staley
Communications Center Administrator Lee Zapata

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Opening Agenda

1. Call to Order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Planning Workshop of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Wax at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas.

Mayor Was welcomed Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Karen Mella.

Executive Session

City Council will hold an executive session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

2. Section 551.072 Deliberation about Real Property: Acquisition of property for public purpose - Project Ibis.

At 9:07 a.m., Mayor Wax convened the Rockport City Council into an executive session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in Section 551.072 Deliberation about Real Property: Acquisition of property for public purpose - Project Ibis.

Open Session

3. City Council will reconvene into open session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to take any actions necessary related to the executive session.

At 10:38 a.m., Mayor Wax reconvened the Rockport City Council into open session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to take any actions necessary related to the executive session.

Mayor Wax recommended that the City Council approve the purchase of property known as Aransas County Appraisal District (ACAD) account numbers 33800, 33738, 62222, 54714 and 66565 all total as a single piece of property from Gordon Speer for the value of \$1.5 million to close the first piece on February 13, 2015.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Rios moved to approve the purchase of property known as Aransas County Appraisal District (ACAD) account numbers 33800, 33738, 62222, 54714 and 66565 all total as a single piece of property from Gordon Speer for the value of \$1.5 million to close the first piece on February 13, 2015. Council Member Day seconded the motion. Motion carried: 4:0.

FOR MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Rios, Council Member Day, Council Member Gurtner and Mayor Wax.

ABSTAIN: Council Member Villa.

Mayor Wax stated that the City is purchasing 43.5 acres that front on State Highway 35 Bypass and Corpus Christi Street with the intention of forming a regional sports complex for use not only by the citizens of Rockport but also for competition level services for the rest of the State.

Planning Workshop Agenda

4. Hear and deliberate on strategic planning items including administrative procedures, City ordinances, capital projects, annexation, level of service, sister city and sesquicentennial celebration planning.

Mayor Wax stated the purpose of this Council Workshop Planning session is to look at five (5) years from now with an eye toward long-term growth and improvement of the City. Mayor Wax said the Council needs to take into account not only the conditions of the City, the realities as they are today, but also the way we want the City to grow. Mayor Wax added that there were some things to keep in mind: Effective Tax Rate Law - That law is written so that the *ad valorem* tax value that is established in each successive budget year produces the same dollar amount in *ad valorem* taxes as the *ad valorem* rate did the previous year; the problem with the way the law is written is that it does not allow for the normal things that happen to a budget. For example, we have a very consistent employee structure; they get seniority pay, they get developmental pay as they get increased

certifications in their specialties, they have to buy groceries, gasoline and everything else and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) last year went up 2.3%, so the Council approved a 2.3% across the board increase for all employees in the budget. What that means is if you stay at the effective rate and you do not approve a CPI increase equivalent, all of our employees will lose 2.3% worth of their buying power, and any set of certificates or seniority that results in increased pay will cut from their buying power or will reduce the dollars available for the City to perform services at its current level. What the City needs to think about over the long term is: Are there particular services that the City performs that we should not be performing anymore? It makes no sense to look across the City's budget and say that everybody should take a 10% pay cut because that denies the various priorities of the services that we are providing today and it also ignores the limitations of the law in terms of effective tax rate. Two bills have been presented to the legislature thus far this year that would limit *ad valorem* tax increases to 4% per year and would require a vote of the public to adopt that rate, every time. Any election we have in the City will cost about \$8,000, and in neither of those bills is there any funding for local elections. Texas Municipal League is watching that very closely. So what we should think about as we look at improvements and growth of the City is: Where do we want to be 5-10 years from now, what is it going to cost us to get there, and keep an eye on those services we are providing that maybe we should not provide anymore. But if we are going to continue to provide those services, we have to recognize what it costs to deliver them, and the costs to deliver them is not the responsibility of our employees, it is our responsibility. Mayor Wax added that the City is the only entity in Aransas County that will continue to grow; Aransas County and the Town of Fulton cannot grow.

City Manager Kevin Carruth called the Council's attention to a handout (below) listing Planning Workshop Topics that he and staff developed to look at the bigger picture and get direction from Council to move forward with some of these items.

Planning Workshop Topics - 2015

1. Procedures
 - a. Administrative approval of banners, temporary street closures, HOT quarterly reports
 - b. Monthly department reports
2. Ordinances
 - a. Sex offender ordinance
 - b. Special events
 - c. Mobile vending
3. Capital Projects
 - a. Baysshore Drive shoreline stabilization
 - b. Firing range
4. Annexation
5. Level of service
 - a. Credit card fees
 - b. Mowing ROW
 - c. Automated sanitation
 - d. Streetlights
 - e. Economic development
 - f. Council meeting schedule
 - g. Compensation study
 - h. FY 2015-2016 tax rate
6. Sister City
7. Sesquicentennial Celebration Planning

Mr. Carruth called the Council's attention to a handout "included" which addressed each of the topics.

City Council Planning Retreat

January 20, 2015

Administrative Procedures

- Authorizing staff approval, within Council defined parameters, would provide a more efficient & customer friendly process
- Council would receive notice of such requests as they are processed
- Specific areas for consideration include:
 - ◆ Street banners
 - ◆ HOT quarterly reports
 - ◆ Temporary street closures

Administrative Procedures - Banner Signs

- Sec. 6-97(2) – Public events. Public event banner signs shall be placed no earlier than 60 days prior to and removed within ten days following the event to which the banner sign applies. This type of banner sign must be attached to an existing or permanent structure. Stakes of any material used to support banner signs must be securely installed in the ground. Each stake must have a minimum cross section area of three square inches. Permission must be obtained from the owner of the property on which the banner sign is to be placed. The property owner shall also be responsible for removal of the banner sign. Public event banner signs may be installed across public streets with permission of the city council.

Administrative Procedures - HOT Reports

- Sec. 94-90. Quarterly reports to city secretary.
On the last day of the month following each quarterly period, every person required to collect the tax imposed by this article shall file a report with the city secretary of taxes showing the prior paid for all room occupancies in the preceding quarter, the amount of the tax collected on such occupancies, and any other information the city secretary may reasonably require. Such person shall pay the tax due on such occupancies at the time of filing such report. The report shall be in a form prescribed by the city secretary. The city secretary is hereby authorized and directed to do all such things necessary or convenient to carry out the terms of this article. The city secretary shall have the authority to request and receive within a reasonable time documentation for information contained in the report to the city by the hotel. In addition to the report required to be filed with the city secretary, every person required to collect the tax imposed by this article shall also file a copy of the hotel occupancy tax report also due to the Texas State Comptroller for the current period, when submitting the city tax report.

Administrative Procedures - Street Closures

- Requests for temporary street closures, e.g. block parties, frequently are not received far enough ahead of the event to allow for adequate planning & commitments for the requestor & City Council meeting schedule
- Sec. 86-76(b) of the Code of Ordinances already provides for staff approval of temporary street closures for construction projects

Administrative Procedures - Monthly Departmental Reports

- Sec. 86-76(b) – Approval or disapproval.
The responsible person shall either approve or disapprove the application in five business days after it is submitted
- Although Sec. 86-76(b) already prescribes a process wherein staff is authorized to review & approve temporary street closures, procedurally for many years those requests have gone to City Council for approval (reason unknown)
- The timing for City Council approval almost always violates the maximum time allowed for review

Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Carruth regarding administrative procedures for: 1) Banner signs, 2) Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) reports, 3) Street closures, and 4) Monthly departmental reports.

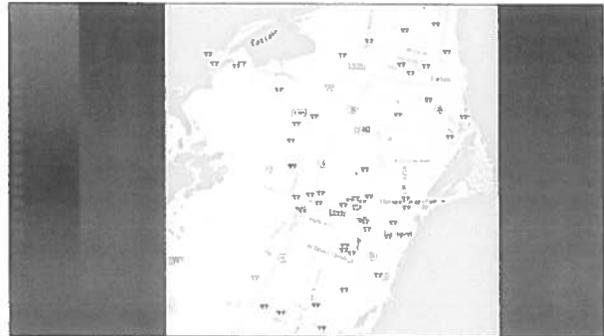
Mayor Wax suggested that the City Ordinance regulating the approval of hanging street banners be amended to state that Council approval is not required for hanging street banners for the area's standard festivals (Whooping Crane Strut, Seafair, Oysterfest, HummerBird Celebration, and several others) and designated the specific location of Business Highway 35. Mayor Wax stated that if there were other requests to hang banners across streets, the Council should approve.

Mayor Wax suggested the procedure for temporary closing of streets be handled in the same manner as closing streets for construction.

It was the consensus of Council that the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) reports continue to be placed on the Consent Agenda until Council can think about this some more.

Ordinances - Sex Offender Restrictions

- Town of Fulton approved Ordinance No. 257 in May 2013 restricts where a registered sex offender may live
- The net effect of Fulton's ordinance is to all but eliminate any area within the Town's limits that a registered sex offender may live
- Without any residential restrictions, Rockport is becoming a more attractive residential location for registered offenders
- Some assert that residential restrictions extending beyond an individual's sentence are punitive & violate constitutional rights & that stigmatization undermines the welfare of society



Discussion was held among Council, Mr. Carruth, Police Chief Jayroe and Police Detective James Wilson in regard to whether the City of Rockport wants to adopt an ordinance restricting sex offenders.

It was the consensus of Council that the City establish some restrictions regarding sex offenders.

Council directed Mr. Carruth to prepare an overlay map showing areas within 1000 feet of churches, schools (public & private), day cares, public parks, and public pools, and then Chief Jayroe and Detective Wilson will guide the Council toward establishing restrictions regarding sex offenders.

Ordinances – Mobile Food Vendors

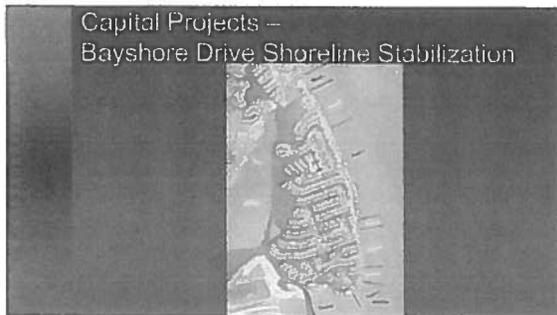
- Mobile food vendors have become increasingly popular in other, mostly larger, communities
- City has received approximately 3 inquiries over the last 12-18 months
- Regulations typically address 4 policy areas:
 - ◆ Economic Activity - streamlining, permit costs, competition with brick & mortar food vendors
 - ◆ Public Space - time constraints, proximity rules, geographic limitations
 - ◆ Public Health – sanitation & food safety
 - ◆ Public Safety – Private property, proximity to schools, pedestrian safety

Discussion was held among Council, Mr. Carruth, and Chief Jayroe regarding mobile food vendors.

Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Karen Mella stated the Chamber Executive Committee and the Aransas County Economic Development Committee have had this discussion. Ms. Mella said the discussion determined mobile vendors are detrimental to established businesses that pay taxes.

It was the consensus of the Council that no changes be made to the current City Ordinance regulating mobile food vendors.

Council took a recess for lunch from 12:00 noon until 12:40 p.m.



Capital Projects – Bayshore Drive Shoreline Stabilization

Reach	Parcel	Project Type	Notes for Reach Status
Reach 1	Parcel 1	Disturbance/Rehab	Original being a commercial property, the subject has an approved plan and is worked which would change from any other parcels in the vicinity. Developer would a public project.
Reach 2	Parcel 2-18	Private	All other parcels still in the owner's use of the property. The owner is currently in the process of re-zoning the property to residential. The owner is currently in the process of re-zoning the property to residential. The owner is currently in the process of re-zoning the property to residential.
Reach 3	Parcel 19-52	Private	All properties are private. Some parcels within this reach are currently in the owner's use.
Reach 4	Parcel 53-55	Public	Concrete revetment in this area has been undermined and could lead to complete failure of the existing bulkhead and retained shoreline. No visible damage on bulkhead along shoreline, bulkhead could eventually be undermined through wave action.
Reach 5	Parcel 56-Paisano Ln.	Public	All parcels are generally no same intention. This reach covers the portion of the bulkhead on the public beach that is owned by a resident.
Reach 6	Paisano Ln. Grain 46	Public	All parcels are generally the same intention. This reach covers the portion of the bulkhead on the southern end of the bulkhead on the same area.
Reach 7	Grain 46-Parcel 1A	Public/Private	All parcels are generally the same intention. This reach covers the portion of the bulkhead on the southern end of the bulkhead on the same area.
Reach 8	Parcel 1A-18	Private	All parcels are generally the same intention. This reach covers the portion of the bulkhead on the southern end of the bulkhead on the same area.

Capital Projects – Bayshore Drive Shoreline Stabilization

Reach	Reach Extents	Urgency	Description
Reach 1	Parcel 1		Shoreline is unprotected in some sections, but the existing levy provides good coverage to the area.
Reach 2	Parcel 2-18		All properties in this area have been bulkheaded; thus the shoreline in this location is stable.
Reach 3	Parcel 19-52		Some properties in this area do not have bulkheads, allowing the shoreline to erode.
Reach 4	Parcel 53-55		The concrete revetment in this area has been undermined and could lead to complete failure of the existing bulkhead and retained shoreline. No visible damage on bulkhead along shoreline, bulkhead could eventually be undermined through wave action.
Reach 5	Parcel 56-Paisano Ln.		Some damage to the revetment has been observed, but currently the revetment is mostly intact.
Reach 6	Paisano Ln. Grain 46		The revetment in this area has failed and geotextile fabric has been exposed.
Reach 7	Grain 46-Parcel 1A		The shoreline within this area has been stabilized and no damage to the structures was observed.
Reach 8	Parcel 1A-18		The shoreline within this area has been stabilized and no damage to the structures was observed.

Discussion was held among Council, Mr. Carruth and Public Works Director Mike Donoho regarding the Bayshore Drive shoreline stabilization and the request from the Key Allegro Homeowners Association for the City's participation in shoreline stabilization.

Mayor Wax stated the City will step up to its responsibilities but will need some type of cost estimates, and also will have a conversation with the Copano Bridge project people to see if we can use the concrete that will be excavated from that project.

Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Carruth regarding the Key Allegro bridge and walkway.

It was the consensus of Council that the City contract with an engineer for a structural assessment of the Key Allegro bridge and write the contract so that the engineer can assess other bridges in the City.

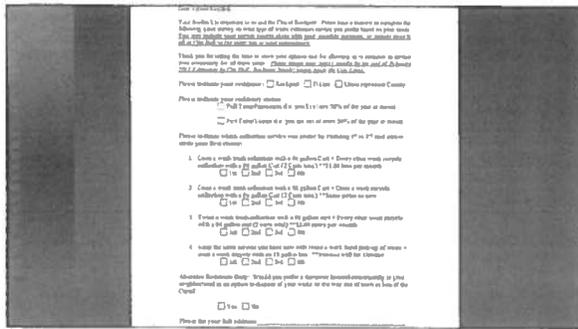
Level of Service – Automated Sanitation

- Options at Hand
 - 1X week waste/EOW recycle/1X quarter brush
 - 1X week waste/1X week recycle/1X quarter brush
 - 2X week waste/EOW recycle/1X quarter brush
 - Same service as current/no brush = CPI increase in October

**Cost of trucks & carts have increased for 2015
 **Pricing presented last year may fluctuate

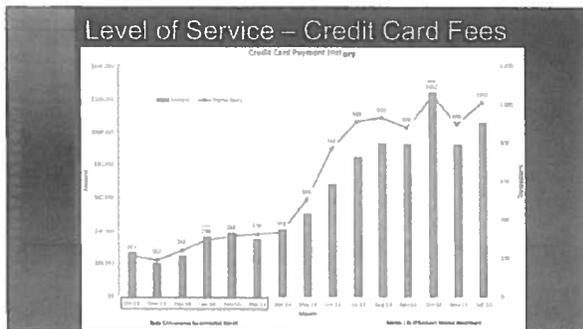
Level of Service – Automated Sanitation

- Bulky Option
 - Pros & Cons
 - Approximate additional cost: \$1-\$2 more
- HOA Workaround
 - Drop off sites
 - 8 yard containers with auto locks & side doors
- Survey
 - Need to send out & gather feedback
 - Recycling concerns on contamination
 - Timing



Level of Service -- Automated Sanitation

- Timeline
 - If survey is favorable
 - Vote by Council
 - Approval window for RSG
 - Roll-out timeline (6-8 months)
 - Start date to community



City Manager Kevin Carruth stated the Council previously discussed automated sanitation service and the Mayor had requested information from the three (3) homeowners' associations within the City. Mr. Carruth said two (2) out of the three (3) homeowners' associations had sent the requested information.

Republic Services Municipal Marketing Manager Mike Reeves addressed the Council. Mr. Reeves stated Republic Services wants to give the City of Rockport what they want and Republic's request for automated sanitation service did not get approved last time, but things have changed for Republic. Mr. Reeves reviewed the options and pricing proposed.

Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Reeves regarding the options and automated sanitation service.

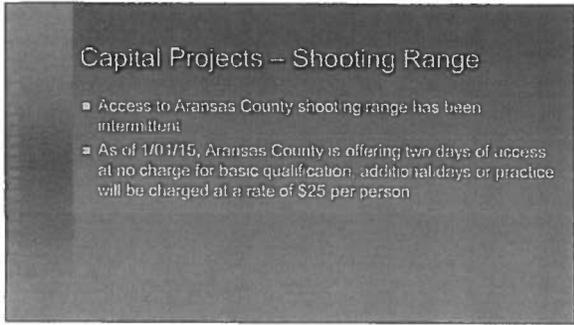
Mayor Wax thanked Mr. Reeves for his presentation.

Capital Projects -- Stormwater Inlet Devices

This block shows a photograph of a stormwater inlet device on the left and a technical drawing of the same device on the right. The drawing includes dimensions and labels for various parts of the device, such as the inlet, outlet, and base.

Capital Projects -- Stormwater Inlet Devices

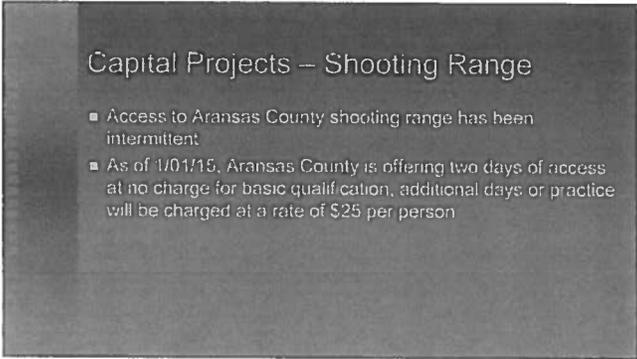
This block shows a photograph of a stormwater inlet device on the left and a technical drawing of the same device on the right. The drawing includes dimensions and labels for various parts of the device, such as the inlet, outlet, and base.



Mr. Carruth stated that over one year ago concerns were voiced regarding stormwater sediment and trash running into Little Bay. Mr. Carruth said Public Works Director Mike Donoho has found a simple solution that would require City maintenance.

Discussion was held among Council, Mr. Carruth and Mr. Donoho in regard to placing stormwater inlet devices within the City.

Mayor Wax asked staff to prepare a cost estimate on placing stormwater inlet devices within the City starting with the largest outflow area and then working backwards. Mayor Wax said the cost estimate should include capital outlay as well as manpower hours.

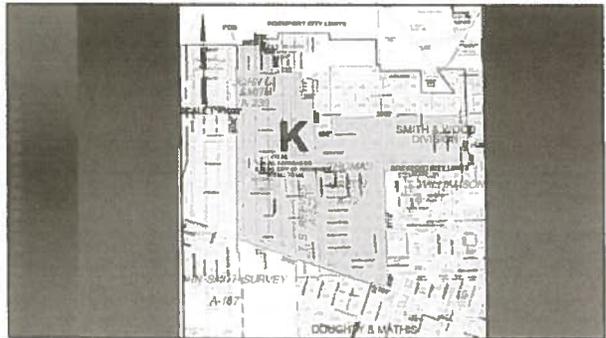
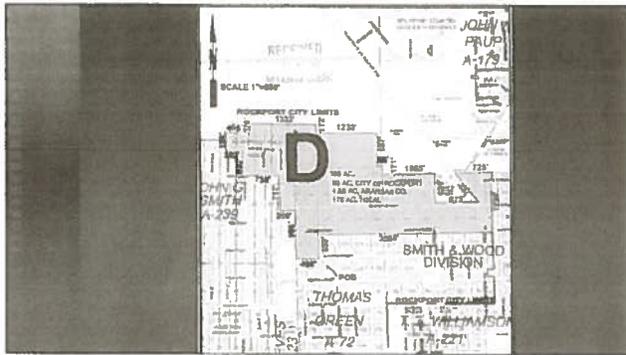
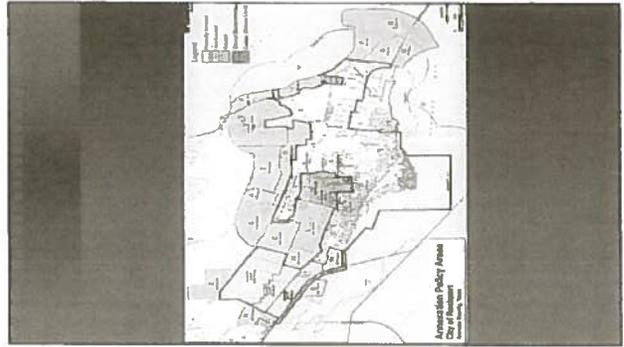
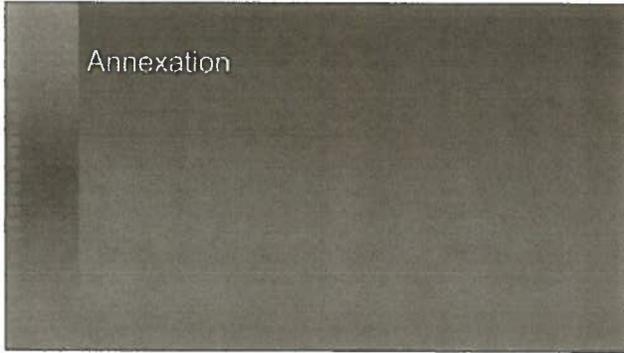


Mr. Carruth stated the City had received a letter in August/September of last year from Aransas County in regard to the City's use of the shooting range. Mr. Carruth said access to the Aransas County shooting range has been intermittent and as of January 1, 2015, Aransas County is offering two days of access at no charge for basic qualifications, additional days of practice will be charged at a rate of \$25 per person. Mr. Carruth informed the Council that the City has an opportunity to purchase land and Del Mar College is willing to partner with the City for a shooting range.

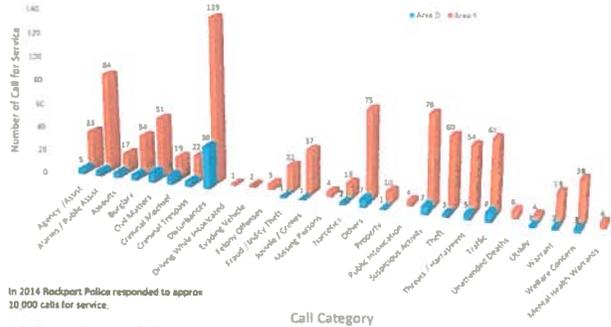
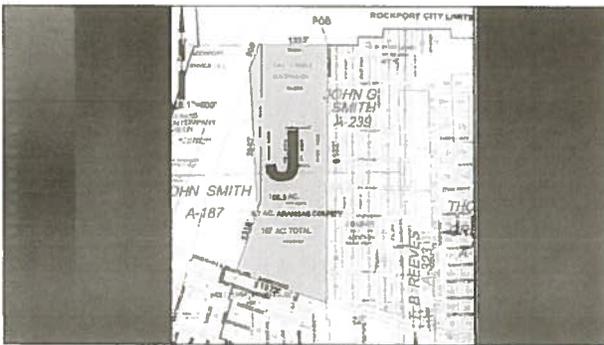
Discussion was held among Council, Mr. Carruth and Police Investigator Jerry Lawing in regard to a shooting range.

Mayor Wax instructed the City Police Department to look at the property and see if it would be appropriate for a shooting range.

Council took a brief recess from 2:15 p.m. until 2:20 p.m.



Calls for Service Areas D&K
7014



In 2014 Rockport Police responded to approx 10 000 calls for service.
In 2014 Aransas County Sheriff Office responded to 1,016 calls for service in areas D&K, approx. 30 to 40 percent requiring Criminal Investigation Follow-up.

Call Category



Mayor Wax called the Council's attention to the maps included in the PowerPoint presentation showing the current City area, wards and the different annexation areas. Mayor Wax stated every city is allowed to annex a maximum of 10% of its acreage within the community every year. Mayor Wax said if you do not exercise the annexation of the full 10%, you can carry over to the following year, and the City has not annexed in 4 years. Mayor Wax explained that the last time the City annexed, the purpose was to expand the City limits down to the four corners of Highway 188 and Highway 35 Bypass, and Highway 188 and Highway 35 Business, to put the City in a negotiating position with Aransas Pass. Mayor Wax added that at that time the City discussed annexing out to get the four corners where Highway 188 and Highway 1069 come together just before the Sinton bridge; same logic, to put Rockport in a position of strength in negotiating with Aransas Pass for a border. Mayor Wax informed the Council that the keyhole area contains three (3) Colonias within annexation areas of "D" and "K", and the annexation area of "J". Mayor Wax expressed that the reason the City wants to annex this area is that this area as a Colonia does not count for the 10% acreage count. Mayor Wax added that property owned by the federal government, county or city does not count either, so area "D", which is 106 acres does not count towards the 10%. Mayor Wax said Police Investigator Lawing gathered statistics on these three areas.

Police Investigator Lawing reviewed the statistics for area "D" (below). Investigator Lawing said there were 119 calls in area "D" in 2014.

2014 Calls for service in zones K & D

Types of Calls	Area D	Area K	Total	Follow up
Agency /Assist	5	33	38	
Alarms / Public Assist	5	84	89	
Assaults	5	17	22	11
Burglary	5	34	39	39
Civil Matters	9	51	60	
Criminal Mischief	8	19	27	13
Criminal Trespass	5	22	27	13
Disturbances	36	139	175	88
Driving While Intoxicated		1	1	1
Evading Vehicle		2	2	2
Felony Offenses		5	5	5
Fraud / Indlty Theft	1	22	23	23
Juvenile / Crimes	1	37	38	14
Missing Persons		4	4	
Narcotics	2	13	15	15
Others	7	75	82	25
Property	1	10	11	
Public intoxication		4	4	
Suspicious Activity	7	76	83	30
Theft	3	60	63	45
Threats / Harrasment	5	54	59	30
Traffic	8	61	69	30
Unattended Deaths		6	6	2
UUMV	1	4	5	5
Warrant	2	24	26	26
Welfare Concern	3	36	39	
Mental Health Warrants		4	4	
	119	897	1016	417

Mayor Wax asked Investigator Lawing how many officers that would equate to for average call out.

Investigator Lawing said that would probably equal one police officer and ½ investigator.

Mayor Wax stated this area has some imbedded businesses that would all be grandfathered; it has some properties that are very well taken care of and other property that is not so well tended. Mayor Wax said that the basic rule of annexation is that if you annex a residential area you are going to lose

money, so if we annex this area we have to recognize the long-term personnel cost of it. Mayor Wax expressed that there are 858 registered voters in that area and it attaches only to Ward 2, and any annexation that the City does is going to require the City to redistrict, which is something to keep in mind as the City starts to consider annexation. Mayor Wax stated there are approximately 1240 voters in area "K" so between the two areas there are 2098 people which are equivalent to one of the current City wards. Mayor Wax said that as Council considers this, we have to ask if we want to control this area along the north side of Market Street where there is a good amount of commercial business, and then do we want to impose our zoning and building restrictions and control the growth and development of the City. Mayor Wax stated in return for that, the City has to provide the same level of service to the newly annexed areas as we do for the rest of the City and we have three (3) years to do it. Mayor Wax added that these areas already have wastewater and sewer, but they do not have street lights and the streets need work. Mayor Wax reminded the Council that the last time the City annexed property, the Department of Justice told us that this area they were viewing as either a minority or low income area and they would not approve any further annexation for the City unless something was addressed to this area. Mayor Wax informed the Council that the City is no longer under that requirement because a court case annulled that section of the Voting Rights Act. Mayor Wax expressed that he thinks the City would be looked at by the Department of Justice and the City should consider that and do what we can to improve that area.

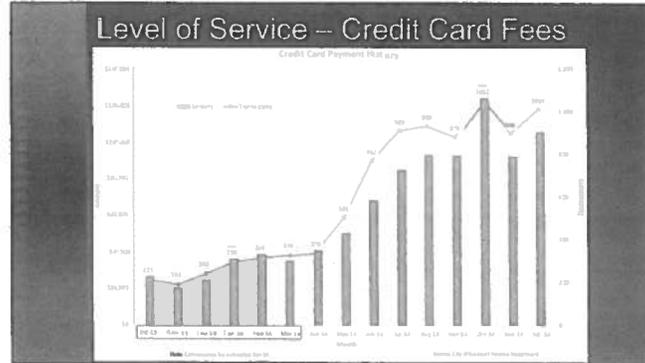
Mayor Wax called the Council's attention to the map showing area "J" which is Oak Terrace and has over 100 registered voters and 167 acres. Mayor Wax informed the Council that this area cannot be annexed unless you put it on an annexation plan with a three (3) year notice unless the City has control of the three (3) corners of that area. Mayor Wax stated that if the City annexes area "K" then area "J" could be annexed in the next annexation. Mayor Wax added that this area north of Market may be the only area that may be profitable for the City to annex.

Mayor Wax called the Council's attention to the City Ward map. Mayor Wax said if the City annexes areas "D" and "K" those areas will not count towards the City's 10% acreage. Mayor Wax stated he would think about doing would be to close the gap to give the City control of the entire Highway 35 Bypass on the east side, would also begin to lay out our future plans for annexation of the rest of the keyhole area, and extend outward to get over to the corner of Highway 188 and Highway 1781. Mayor Wax added that the City may want to think about the area of Copano Ridge or Peninsula Oaks. Mayor Wax informed the Council that the area of Shell Ridge had previously been put on an annexation plan but they objected so that would have to be put on a three (3) year annexation plan.

Mayor Wax stated that regardless of what the City annexes, it is going to put the City population over 10,000 and by law if a City has a population of over 10,000 the county must redistrict as well so their precinct lines do not overlap ward lines within the municipality. Mayor Wax said that right now County Precinct 3 touches three (3) of the City's wards and if the City were to annex along Highway 35 the City may be able to use major thoroughfares as ward lines. Mayor Wax reminded the Council that a City Council Member cannot be redistricted out of his own ward.

Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Carruth in regard to future annexation of the different areas.

Mayor Wax stated he thinks the City needs to do something about the keyhole area but Council need to have a good idea of what annexing that area is going to cost the City, as well as taxes that come in and expenses that go on forever.



Mr. Carruth stated that last year the City eliminated the convenience fee for using a credit card to pay utility bills. Mr. Carruth said this is a cost to the City and he asked if the Council wants to continue with the level of service.

Finance Director Patty Howard informed the Council that the City will be changing to utilizing Wells Fargo for credit card transactions and the costs associated with credit card transactions will be reduced approximately \$100-\$200 a month.

Brief discussion was held among Council, Mr. Carruth and Ms. Howard.

It was the consensus of Council to continue to offer this level of service.

Level of Service

- Mowing Rights of Way
- Streetlights
- Economic Development
- Council Meeting Schedule
- Compensation Study
- FY 2015-2016 Ad Valorem Rate

Mr. Carruth informed the Council that the City has been providing a higher level of service than other cities provide by mowing some rights of way. Mr. Carruth stated this comes with a cost and asked whether the City wants to continue to doing this.

Discussion was held among Council, Mr. Carruth and Mr. Donoho.

Mayor Wax stated that the City should look at this from a policy prospective; we do not spend resources on private property.

Brief discussion was held among Council and Mr. Carruth in regard to streetlights and the possibility of converting to solar lighting.

Brief discussion was held among Council and Mr. Carruth in regard to economic development.

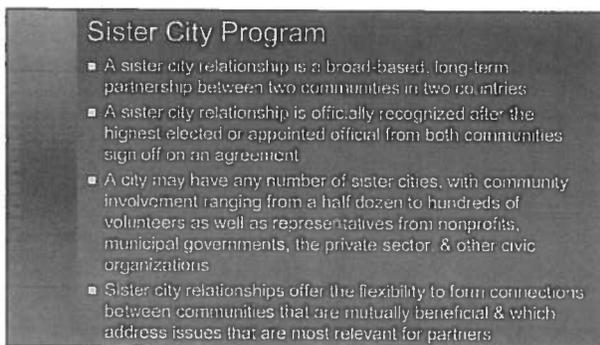
Mayor Wax stated the City will get a cost to have a Buxton Study done for the City of Rockport.

Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Carruth regarding the possibility of changing the times for Council meetings.

Mayor Wax suggested that the Council meet at 1:30 p.m. for the first regularly scheduled Tuesday meeting of the month and then meet at 1:30 p.m. for the workshop and 6:30 p.m. for the second regularly scheduled Tuesday meeting of the month.

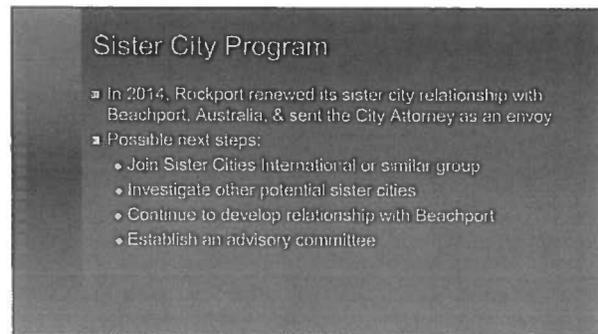
Mr. Carruth stated the Council had previously talked about a compensation study. Mr. Carruth said he would suspect that most of the City's employee positions are not at market level but a compensation study has not been put in the budget because of the expense. Mr. Carruth added that the City did implement certification pay and that is a good step, but the City is still struggling when hiring employees; not getting the quality of applicants we need because of the pay scale.

Mayor Wax stated he wanted to combine this discussion with the next topic of *Ad Valorem* rate. Mayor Wax said he thinks the Council needs to take a look at a compensation study and understand that it comes with a price tag and then commit to implementing it. Mayor Wax expressed that right now the City has lost employees to other cities because of pay. Mayor Wax declared that the City needs to be as loyal to its employees as the employees are loyal to the City.



Sister City Program

- A sister city relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries
- A sister city relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement
- A city may have any number of sister cities, with community involvement ranging from a half dozen to hundreds of volunteers as well as representatives from nonprofits, municipal governments, the private sector & other civic organizations
- Sister city relationships offer the flexibility to form connections between communities that are mutually beneficial & which address issues that are most relevant for partners.

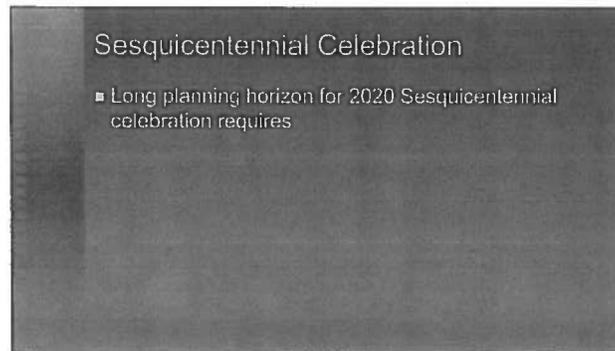


Sister City Program

- In 2014, Rockport renewed its sister city relationship with Beachport, Australia, & sent the City Attorney as an envoy
- Possible next steps:
 - Join Sister Cities International or similar group
 - Investigate other potential sister cities
 - Continue to develop relationship with Beachport
 - Establish an advisory committee

Mayor Wax stated that if the City wants to continue its sister city relationship, there are additional things that can be done. Mayor Wax said there are various organizations that deal with sister city programs and he would like to know what these organizations are, what the cost is and what they bring to the table. Mayor Wax added that he is comfortable with Beachport, Australia, being the City of Rockport's sister city and he would be interested in knowing what it would cost for the City

to invite Beachport to Rockport or the City visit Beachport. Mayor Wax instructed the City Secretary to research and find out how Beachport and the City of Rockport became sister cities.



Mr. Carruth stated that the year 2020, the year of the City's Sesquicentennial, seems a long way off, but planning a celebration needs to start way in advance.

Mayor Wax asked the City Secretary to research the archives and find the date of the first actual meeting of the Rockport City Council; was it August or December.

Discussion was held among Council regarding planning the event.

City Secretary Teresa Valdez suggested hiring an event planner.

Mayor Wax recommended the City pursue hiring an event planner and let the event planner tell us how large a committee is needed and advise on who should be on the committee.



Council Member Gurtner asked where the City stood on reduction of plastic bags by Ordinance.

Discussion was held among Council and it was the consensus for the Council to wait and see how the legislature handles some items such as this, but continue with litter education and environmental stewardship.

Council Member Gurtner stated she wanted the Council to think about lighting because since she has moved here the sky has started to disappear. Ms. Gurtner said because of growth and development we are getting more lights. Ms. Gurtner informed the Council that Dr. Bill Wren of McDonald Conservatory did a presentation on lighting; it was totally scientific, did not promote anything, just the facts of life, showed cities with low light and found out that it is cheaper to do the right thing and use lower lights. Ms. Gurtner added that lower lights promoted better security, cheaper utility costs, cuts down on wattage, use fixtures that are inexpensive, and the City should be educating the public about this. Ms. Gurtner expressed that she thought it would be good to have Dr. Wren come to Rockport and do his presentation on lighting.

Council Member Gurtner said her other concern is signage; in looking at the City we are getting more people, more businesses, we are getting less congruity. Ms. Gurtner stated that one of the towns she was told to look at was Fredericksburg and how they have done their signage; it is low, it is tasteful and it is a big tourist attraction.

Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Carruth regarding the City's sign ordinance and changing it.

Council Member Villa stated the main thing to consider is implementation. Mr. Villa said if the City changes an Ordinance then it should enforce it.

Mayor Wax asked if there were any other items to discuss.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho informed the Council that staff is doing a complete and total review of the water/wastewater treatment plant and will be bringing to Council some high dollar issues; looking at over \$500,000 over the next two (2) years. Mr. Donoho said the facility is over 50 years old.

Mr. Donoho asked for the Council's direction in regard to an overhead wire connected to a single street light at the entrance of the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) facility.

It was the consensus of Council to remove the wire and relocate the light if possible.

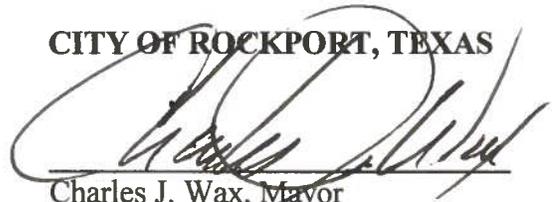
Mr. Donoho informed the Council that the Finance Department and the Public Works Department met and developed a plan to assist contractors when they pay for permits; they can pay at either location.

City Manager Kevin Carruth thanked the Council and staff for their time and participation.

5. Adjournment

At 4:59 p.m., Council Member Villa moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rios and carried unanimously.

CITY OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS



Charles J. Wax, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Valdez, City Secretary