

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MINUTES

### CITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING 1:30 p.m., Friday, September 1, 2017 Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2017, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Emergency Session at 1:30 p.m., in response to the Hurricane Harvey disaster, at the Rockport Service Center, and notice of meeting giving time, place, date and subject was posted as described in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.041.

#### 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  
Public Works Director Mike Donoho  
Police Chief Tim Jayroe  
Parks & Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez  
Communications Center Director Lee Zapata

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### Opening Agenda

##### **1. Call to Order.**

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Emergency Session of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Wax at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, September 1, 2017, in the north glass conference room of the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas.

Mayor Wax commented that the City is receiving support from all facets of society, particularly people who live in Rockport, the homeowners' associations, and numerous other organizations. Mayor Wax said the City is receiving phenomenal support from the state and federal governments. Mayor Wax stated he met with President Trump, FEMA representatives, state legislators, and directors of federal cabinets in Corpus Christi on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, and today Vice President Pence, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Governor Greg Abbott and other federal and state officials toured Rockport. Mayor Wax said they

ensured us we will not be forgotten because of the flooding disaster in Houston. Mayor Wax added the hurricane surge never crested over 1.8 feet in Rockport, but along the coast of Highway 35 there is flooding. Mayor Wax extended thanks to employees and citizens providing support. Mayor Wax added that the Police, Public Works, and Parks Departments have been working themselves to the bone so if you see them please say "Thank You."

### **Regular Agenda.**

#### **2. Deliberate and act on leave advance program for City employees.**

City Manager Kevin Carruth said that at last count the City has 127 full-time positions out of 130 authorized full-time positions, and out of those, 94 were activated in response to the disaster; 1-2 more will be brought in as needed. Mr. Carruth stated that the remaining employees are clerical and may not be coming back to work for some time. Mr. Carruth informed the Council that per the Employee Handbook, those employees will use leave time until exhausted, to cover work time missed due to the disaster. Mr. Carruth added that the City wants these employees to return to work when things return to normal. Mr. Carruth said when talking to the Texas Municipal League legal staff, they thought it was acceptable legally to have a leave advance program; the advance leave pay time would be paid back over time. Mr. Carruth said this program would require a signed agreement and employees would need to understand it was an obligation.

Mayor Wax stated that the principle here is that City employees are loyal to the City and we are loyal to them.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rios said so many employees have stayed in Rockport and others will return soon. Mayor Pro-Tem Rios stated that these employees need to know they have a job to resume.

Council Member Villa stated he agreed with Mayor Wax. Council Member Villa said employees kept the City afloat.

Council Member Gurtner agreed.

Council Member Day stated this is the least we can do for our employees.

**MOTION:** Mayor Wax moved to approve a leave advance program to be developed by the City Manager. Mayor Pro-Tem Rios seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wax added the following statement for guests attending this meeting: "Some employees were on duty during the hurricane; they are now wearing everything they own and they are still working."

#### **3. Deliberate and act on vendor and contractor registration program.**

Mayor Wax commented that there are scammers who work disaster areas. Mayor Wax stated in order to protect the citizens of Rockport, the City is considering a vendor and contractor registration program. Mayor Wax said all vendors and contractors will be instructed to visit the Rockport Service Center where the Building and Development staff will check credentials. Mayor Wax

explained that if credentials check out, the vendor or contractor will be issued a decal for their vehicles and badges for their personnel so citizens will know they are legitimate. Mayor Wax showed an example of the vehicle decal.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho said this program will begin the first part of next week and will cover the entire City. Mr. Donoho asked all vendors and contractors to register. Mr. Donoho added this is being done to try to protect citizens; citizens should receive windstorm certifications from contractors to acquire insurance.

Dudley McDaniel, President of the Key Allegro Homeowners' Association, commented that vendors and contractors are swarming Key Allegro already.

Adelaide Marlatt, member of the Rockport Country Club Homeowners' Association, stated she will share this information by email to Country Club members.

City Manager Kevin Carruth distributed a copy of the Missouri City registration program. Mr. Carruth said there will not be a fee for these registrations due to the disaster.

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro-Tem Rios moved to approve a vendor and contractor registration program for the City of Rockport using Missouri City's Contractor Registration as a model. Council Member Villa seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Deliberate on department disaster reports.**

Public Works Director Mike Donoho stated the Public Works and Building Departments have been busy since last week Thursday. Mr. Donoho said the main goal is to get the City's water and wastewater facilities operational. Mr. Donoho informed the Council there was good pressure on the water system but that it could not be left on because there would be wastewater overflow. Mr. Donoho said City facilities are closed and people are being encouraged not to return to Rockport because there are no operational water and wastewater facilities and it is dangerous.

Mayor Wax stated that AEP is advising the City they are expecting to have electricity back on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Wax added this did not mean that every structure would have the electricity restored at that date. Mayor Wax said he will provide an update every day.

Dick Kitchens asked what type of system there was to let areas know about this.

Mayor Wax answered that there really isn't any system like that.

Barbara Salemi & Phil Salemi asked if the Mayor could provide an update on the water every day. They commented this would be helpful.

City Manager Kevin Carruth stated water was not being turned on for consumption and that is the reason the public was not being told.

Ms. Salemi commented the information provided by the Mayor in his letters every day is not really complete and she would appreciate a little bit more information, more specifics.

Mayor Wax then asked Mr. Donoho to provide an update on damage to City facilities.

Mr. Donoho said information is being gathered. Mr. Donoho stated the Service Center has some cosmetic damage, slight roof and siding damage and did have some water come into the building. Mr. Donoho informed the Council that City Hall is being looked at, Bay Education Center took on a whole lot of water, Fleet building has moderate damage and the IT building has moderate damage.

Parks and Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez reported the City parks received a lot of damage. Mr. Martinez informed the Council that Memorial Park lost most of its structures and they are still assessing damage. Mr. Martinez said the new bathroom in Memorial Park did very well. Mr. Martinez stated the structure at Corpus Christi Street was hit very hard; roof damage and the ceiling caved in. Mr. Martinez reported the maintenance building was destroyed; the building on Teal Street held on but the doors are gone and there is roof damage at that house. Mr. Martinez stated there is exterior wall damage, interior water damage and the diving platforms are broken at the Aquatic Park, but the skate park looks good. Mr. Martinez said the City lost a lot of trees on the Bent Oaks property; there are a lot of trees down on the Hike & Bike Trail; the historical Zachary Taylor Park tree has significant damage; lost all character palm trees except one at Compass Rose Park, have some trees down as Spencer Park and lost a few big oak trees at Mathis Park. Mr. Martinez reported there are broken windows at the Bay Education Center, damage to shade structures, and something happened to the roof because there is a lot of water inside.

Adelaide Marlatt stated that Paul Johnson with the state forestry service will come to Rockport and help in assessing trees to stop some of the cutting down and possibly save some of the trees.

Mr. Martinez stated that Mark Koontz has volunteered to assist with that.

Mayor Wax stated that most of the cutting is for clearing of roadways.

Mr. Martinez informed the Council that he has been approached by the City of Corpus Christi Parks Department and they are preparing to send a crew, at their expense, to take on a project, probably Memorial Park.

Police Chief Tim Jayroe reported there was some water damage under the base and down walls on the west side of the Safety Center and one broken window in his office. Chief Jayroe said there are 3-4 flag poles laying on the ground and 3 communication towers were lost. Chief Jayroe stated officers have been working 12 hours on and 12 hours off, essentially on duty the entire time. Chief said he is looking at changing schedules so officers can enjoy their time off. Chief Jayroe added there have been so many things delivered to the Police Department that they are telling people not to bring anymore because they don't need it. Chief Jayroe informed the Council that one officer and two dispatchers lost everything in the hurricane. Chief Jayroe said the state sent 30 Highway Patrol officers to Rockport, Border Patrol has assisted, as well as Portland sending officers. Chief Jayroe informed everyone that the Department of Public Safety is enforcing the curfew, there is limited access to neighborhoods and the Police Department is trying to have officers there. Chief Jayroe

reported that 3 police vehicles had windows knocked out, his car has 2 flat tires and the Police Department is running two-man units because there are not enough cars.

Phil Salemi commented that he feels 100% secure with the Chief and his team.

Mike Donoho informed the Council that debris removal will start next week. Mr. Donoho said the City has to have an auditor who goes with them to calculate amounts collected for FEMA reimbursement. Mr. Donoho added that the debris must be sorted or it will not be picked up.

Barbara Salemi stated citizens need detailed information about this; they do not know what they are supposed to do.

Mr. Donoho said this information was posted on the City's website three days ago. Mr. Donoho stated it is very difficult to get information out; if people have questions, tell them to call the City.

Dudley McDaniel stated there are piles everywhere in Key Allegro. Mr. McDaniel asked if there was a contractor that could help with separating and sorting debris because some Key Allegro homeowners do not have the ability to do this.

Bob Cunningham commented that lots are just not big enough to accommodate large amounts of debris.

Council Member Villa stated that this was not the City's responsibility.

Mr. Donoho stated if there is debris on an individual's property, it is the property owner's responsibility; anything that can be moved to the curb will be picked up.

Mr. Salemi stated he was concerned about the wastewater station; his private lift station had to be emptied. Mr. Salemi asked if the City was doing anything to mitigate these issues and why the City is not using generators.

Mr. Donoho informed Mr. Salemi that the state sent people to Rockport and the City is looking at the usage of generators; the City cannot keep up and some lift stations have been compromised.

Mayor Wax commented that you still need water to make it flow.

Mr. Donoho remarked that electricity is the key and the City is doing everything it can. Mr. Donoho stated it is going to cost millions for repairs. Mr. Donoho expressed the most important thing is the health and safety of citizens.

Communications Center Director Lee Zapata reported that Dispatch is running 21 operators – 11 of our own and 10 state. Ms. Zapata stated the relief assistance has been very helpful. Ms. Zapata said operators are working 12-on and 12-off hour shifts and they are taking hundreds of calls a day. Ms. Zapata said the number one call is from citizens asking if they can return to Rockport and from volunteers coming to Rockport. Ms. Zapata informed the Council that dispatchers are receiving two days off at a time. Ms. Zapata stated one dispatcher lost everything and one employee's home

sustained severe damage. Ms. Zapata reported radio communications had received a band-aid repair, temporary tower that is 60 feet in air, moved all units to Lamar tower, antenna at Public Safety Center came down in one piece and there is some equipment on there that may be restored, and a tower has been ordered. Ms. Zapata added that the Department of Public Safety trailer is here as long as we need it.

Mayor Wax commented that the dispatchers have also become the information center for things you would not believe.

Information Technology Technician Joey Manahan reported that the AT&T fiber from the Rockport Service Center to the Emergency Operations Center is working. Mr. Manahan stated the Service Center is going to serve as City Hall for some time. Mr. Manahan said the contractor registration program utilizing badges is being developed; 7,000 blank badges ordered and he is working on the template for the badge.

City Manager Kevin Carruth informed the Council that Mr. Manahan has given up his first week of the fall semester of college to assist the City. Mr. Carruth stated Aransas County Independent School District Coordinator of Network Services Chris Garis had come in Saturday to get some information technology issues working.

Mayor Wax thanked Mr. Manahan for his assistance. Mayor Wax stated Information Technology Director Brian Jacobs had evacuated to Bastrop along with the City Secretary, Assistant City Secretary, Utility Billing Supervisor, Utility Billing Technicians and Municipal Court Clerk, to set up Rockport City Hall there to answer telephones.

Mike Donoho informed the Council that Mr. Garis came to the Rockport Service Center and stayed during the hurricane. Mr. Donoho stated Mr. Garis was a godsend, as well as Mr. Manahan.

City Secretary Teresa Valdez reported that Charlie Slaughter with Synergy came to Bastrop to assist in setting up the telephones.

##### **5. Deliberate and act on public safety communications antenna proposals.**

Dailey Wells representative John Chavez addressed the Council. Mr. Chavez informed the Council that Dailey Wells is offering to move the system from Ninth Street and Hardee Street to the water tank at the Rockport Service Center at no charge, including the ten by ten shelter, back-up generator and electrical work. Mr. Chavez stated all they need are the permits and permission to hire an electrical contractor.

Mayor Wax asked if the antenna fell, would it compromise the water tower.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho said it would not compromise the SCADA system.

City Manager Kevin Carruth asked about the value of this.

Dailey Wells representative Edward Martinez answered that is was approximately a \$50,000 to \$60,000 in-kind contribution.

**MOTION:** Council Member Villa moved that Council approve the proposal from Dailey Wells and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents. Mayor Pro-Tem Rios seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Deliberate and act on lease agreement with Small Business Administration for small business recovery center.**

City Manager Kevin Carruth said he received a call from the Small Business Administration to bring a small business recovery center to Rockport if we can provide a no-cost location. Mr. Carruth stated he is proposing they be allowed to utilize 402 E. Laurel Street. Mr. Carruth distributed a copy of the proposed No Cost Space Agreement.

Jonathan Lincoln asked how much space they needed.

Mayor Wax answered they need enough space for 5-8 desks and privacy.

Mr. Lincoln said he had space but not that much.

**MOTION:** Mayor Wax moved to tentatively approve the No Cost Space Agreement for 402 E. Laurel Street pending final negotiations. Council Member Gurtner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Deliberate and act on Hurricane Harvey recovery action plan.**

Parks & Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez stated Texas A&M Urban Forest representative Mark Koontz is present to discuss post-disaster tree risk assessments.

Texas A & M Urban Forest representative Mark Koontz addressed the Council. Mr. Koontz stated that one wrong cut on a tree can permanently damage the tree. Mr. Koontz said the Urban Forest Strike Team has eight people to assess damaged trees on City property. Mr. Koontz informed the Council that this can also be used to give the City money from FEMA. Mr. Koontz said all he needed to begin this process was a signature on the Urban Forest Strike Team Post-Disaster Tree Risk Assessment Specifications agreement.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho said the City is developing a plan to recover with state and other resources to assist. Mr. Donoho expressed to Council that there are City employees who have lost everything and they are continuing to work, and there are employees who evacuated but are requesting they be allowed to come back to work.

Mayor Wax reminded everyone of the City's philosophy: People first, then property.

Council Member Villa commented that everyone is doing a great job. Council Member Villa thanked Mayor Wax and Mayor Pro-Tem Rios for everything.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rios stated he wanted to emphasize to citizens the importance of working with reputable people.

Key Allegro Homeowners' Association President Dudley McDaniel addressed the Council. Mr. McDaniel informed the Council that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality mobilized a drone to Key Allegro to get very detailed information and that information will be available for documenting the condition of land and water. Mr. McDaniel stated there are hundreds of boats in the water and two marine salvage teams have been mobilized. Mr. McDaniel added that one of the teams is working with the private owner of the marina and the other team is working with him on the canals. Mr. McDaniel said they have found 10-20 homes full of natural gas, 60-65% probably destroyed with electrical breakers still on so he is urging the City to have fire crews.

Mr. Donoho stated that a contingent of fire units from all over the state has been activated. Mr. Donoho said the City is going from house-to-house right now and checking water and gas meters.

An unidentified citizen asked if the area in the marina with the sunken boats has been boomed off. He commented that if you start to see a rainbow sheen the Coast Guard will make them do it. He added that he knows the Council has spent a lot of money on Little Bay.

Mr. McDaniel answered that they were told to stand by until insurance adjustors can do it; they have the capability to do it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rios said Aransas County Appraisal District has been flying drones and going property by property to compare before and after Hurricane Harvey pictures.

City Manager Kevin Carruth stated the Appraisal District lost the front half of their building. Mr. Carruth added that Chief Appraiser Mike Soto personally lost everything.

Mr. Donoho said the Appraisal District is working out of the Service Center.

Council Member Gurtner said she has been talking to people and they are saying wonderful things about City staff.

Mr. Carruth said that part of the recovery action plan is continuation of the Finance Director search which has become more difficult. Mr. Carruth stated that prior to the hurricane he had talked to a recruitment agency and received a quote of \$10,000 for collecting applications only and \$28,000 for a full search.

Mayor Wax said to move ahead with the full search.

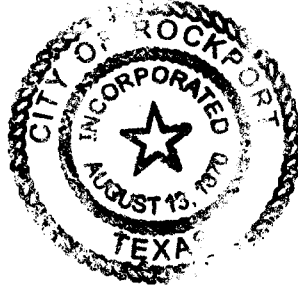
Mayor Wax said the City has established an employee relief fund at First Community Bank. Mayor Wax said there are dispatchers, employees working in the Service Center and police officers who have lost everything. Mayor Wax stated there was \$5,000 in that fund currently.



Jonathan Lincoln stated there was \$161,000 in the Rockport-Fulton Go Fund Me account.

**8. Adjournment**

At 3:30 p.m., Council Member Villa moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rios. Motion carried unanimously.



CITY OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Charles J. Wax", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the text "Charles J. Wax, Mayor" is printed.

Charles J. Wax, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Teresa Valdez", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the text "Teresa Valdez, City Secretary" is printed.

Teresa Valdez, City Secretary