

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MINUTES

### CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2021 Via Video Conferencing Application ZOOM

A temporary suspension of the Open Meetings Act to allow telephone or video conference public meetings was granted by Governor Greg Abbott. These actions were being taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding meetings that bring people into a group setting and in accordance with Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the attorney general has said: "statutes that may be interpreted to require face-to-face interaction between members of the public and public officials are suspended; provided, however, that the governmental bodies must offer alternative methods of communicating with their public officials." Public participation is valued and citizens wishing to express their views on any topic or agenda item can either electronically submit a Citizen Participation Form in order to register to speak by going to <https://rockport.seamlessdocs.com/f/CouncilCitizenParticipation> or scanning the QR code provided on the Agenda. Using the same form, citizens can also provide written comments to the City Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The Mayor will read the comments and they will be summarized in the minutes of the meeting.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m., via video conferencing application ZOOM 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 Patrick R. Rios  
Mayor Pro-Tem J.D. Villa, Ward 2  
Council Member Michael Saski, Ward 1  
Council Member Bob Cunningham, Ward 3  
Council Member Andrea Hattman, Ward 4

#### CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Kevin Carruth  
City Secretary Teresa Valdez  
Director of Public Works & Building Services Mike Donoho  
Community Planner Amanda Torres  
Director of Finance Katie Griffin  
Assistant to City Manager Kimberly Henry  
Parks & Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

#### Opening Agenda

#### 1. Call to Order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Rios at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, via video conferencing application ZOOM.

## **2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mayor Rios led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

## **3. Presentation: Government Finance Officers Association – Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2019.**

Mayor Rios read the following: The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) Program in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. The City of Rockport recently received its 16<sup>th</sup> straight GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program, recognizing the FY 2018-2019 report. Rockport is one of only 433 public entities in Texas (including 205 municipalities) to receive the award and the only one in Aransas County. Nationwide there were 4,354 awardees, of which 2,117 were cities. Of these, Rockport was one of just 329 (1.04%) cities in the U.S. with a population of under 10,000 to be recognized. In Texas, only 205 cities of any size received the Certificate. Mayor Rios thank Director of Finance Katie Griffin and her staff for their hard work.

Council Member Saski expressed that City staff continues to knock things out of the park as usual and he thanked Ms. Griffin for the great work.

## **4. Presentation: Government Finance Officers Association – Distinguished Budget Award.**

Mayor Rios read the following: GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program (Budget Awards Program) in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. Mayor Rios stated the City recently received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

City Manager Kevin Carruth stated this is the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year the City has received this award. Mr. Carruth expressed Rockport is one of 1,673 governments nationwide to receive the award, and one of only 188 public entities in Texas (including 151 municipalities) as well as the only one in Aransas County. Mr. Carruth added this is all due to the Finance Department who does all the heavy lifting and all City staff that keep an eye on the budget.

## **5. Citizens to be heard.**

At this time, written comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any subject matter that is not on the agenda, will be read by the Mayor and summarized in the minutes of the meeting. Persons wishing to address the

Council and who have registered using the Citizen Participation Form will have up to three minutes to speak. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. While civil public criticism is not prohibited, disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace as prohibited by law shall be cause for the chair to terminate the offender's time to speak.

There were no citizen comments.

*Mayor Rios noted a "Corrected Agenda Packet" had replaced the original Agenda Packet posted on the City's website. Mayor Rios explained the cover sheet for Agenda Item #10 had been corrected - the verbiage in parenthesis had been removed under the Fiscal Analysis portion and Agenda Item #18 had the incorrect backup documentation so that had been corrected.*

Mayor Rios read the captions of the Ordinances listed under Consent Agenda Items 12 and 13.

### **Consent Agenda**

All consent agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

6. **Deliberate and act on approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2021.**
7. **Deliberate and act on Resolution approving and adopting an Investment Policy and Strategy for the City of Rockport, Texas.**
8. **Deliberate and act on 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Report from Rockport Center for the Arts for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 market expenditures.**
9. **Deliberate and act on a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Rockport ordering a General Election and establishing procedures for said election to be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021; the General Election shall be for the purpose of electing a Council Member to represent Ward #1 and a Council Member to represent Ward #3; providing other matters relating to the General Election; and finding and determining that the meeting at which this Resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law.**

*Deliberar y tomar medidas sobre la Resolución, una resolución del Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Rockport en la que se ordena la realización de unas Elecciones Generales y se establecen procedimientos para dichas Elecciones, que se llevarán a cabo el sábado 1 de mayo de 2021; las Elecciones Generales se realizarán con el propósito un Concejal que represente el Distrito #1; y un Concejal que represente el Distrito #3; se estipulan otros asuntos relacionados con las Elecciones Generales, y se decide y determina que la reunion en la cual se aprueba la resolución estará abierta al public, como lo require la ley.*

10. **Deliberate and act on Contract for Election Services with the Elections Administrator of Aransas County for the May 1, 2021 Election.**

*Deliberar y actuar sobre el contrato de servicios electorales con el administrador de elecciones del condado de Aransas para las elecciones del 1 de mayo de 2021.*

11. **Deliberate and act on May 1, 2021 Joint Election Contract for Election Services between the City of Rockport and Aransas County Independent School District in compliance with HB 1.**

*Deliberar y tomar medidas sobre el Contrato de Elecciones Conjuntas del 1 de mayo de 2021 para Servicio Electorales entre la Ciudad de Rockport y el Distrito Escolar Independiente del Condado de Aransas, en conformidad con HB 1.*

12. **Deliberate and act on an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Rockport, Texas, extending a COVID-19 pandemic Declaration of Local Disaster for the period of January 26, 2021 – February 23, 2021; establishing rules and regulations for the duration of the disaster; restricting certain activities; and establishing penalties for violations.**
13. **Deliberate and act on an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Rockport, Texas, extending a Declaration of Local Disaster (Hurricane Hanna) for the period of January 26, 2021 – February 23, 2021; establishing rules and regulations for the duration of the disaster; and establishing an effective date.**

Mayor Rios called for requests to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.

**MOTION:** Council Member Saski moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Regular Agenda**

14. **Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1<sup>st</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) to B-1 (General Business District) for retail and office space for property located at 309 West Market Street; also known as East 90 feet of Lots 9, 10, and 11, Block 153, Doughty and Mathis Division, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.**

Community Planner Amanda Torres stated property owner Harper Gerhardt submitted an application seeking a request to rezone 309 West Market Street for retail and office space. Ms. Torres said the property was annexed in 2017 and was designated as R-1 (1<sup>st</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) in accordance to the City's zoning policy for newly annexed territory. Ms. Torres added the 2011 Future Land Use Map indicated the south side of Market Street as residential, however, existing land uses along this stretch are commercial. Ms. Torres stated two letters of opposition were received but these comments do not invoke the 20% rule as described in Section 118.26.2 of the Code of Ordinances. Ms. Torres said the Planning and Zoning Commission met on Monday, January 18, 2021, and asked about the concern regarding large vehicle traffic, but the applicant was not available to addresses the question at the time. Ms. Torres stated the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of this item. Ms. Torres added staff followed up with the applicant, who explained that shipments typically come through

UPS, FedEx, or the occasional box truck, but they would create a loading space on the property for those trucks to park.

Council Member Hattman stated there was a concern about the space for parking. Council Member Hattman asked how big this business will be.

Ms. Torres stated if the rezone request is approved, they must meet the parking ratio requirements.

Mayor Rios stated the Council is only considering the zoning request at this time and certain questions cannot be answered until building plans are submitted.

**MOTION:** Council Member Saski moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1<sup>st</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) to B-1 (General Business District) for retail and office space for property located at 309 West Market Street; also known as East 90 feet of Lots 9, 10, and 11, Block 153, Doughty and Mathis Division, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas,; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**15. Deliberate and act on second and final reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from B-1 (General Business District) to R-2 (2<sup>nd</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) for property located at located at 607 South Church Street; also known as the south 35 feet of Lot 2, all of Lot 3, and the north half of Lot 4, Block 61, Mathis Subdivision, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to preserve residential feel of neighborhood; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.**

Mayor Rios said there had been no changes in format or content since Council approved the first reading of the Ordinance on January 12, 2021.

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the second and final reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from B-1 (General Business District) to R-2 (2<sup>nd</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) for property located at located at 607 South Church Street; also known as the south 35 feet of Lot 2, all of Lot 3, and the north half of Lot 4, Block 61, Mathis Subdivision, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to preserve residential feel of neighborhood; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Council Member Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**16. Deliberate and act on second and final reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1<sup>st</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) to B-1 (General Business District) for property located at 1711-1715 Sixteenth Street; also known as 10.57 acres embracing a portion of Tract 8, lying west of Texas**

**State Highway 35 relief route, and the east one-half of Tract 84, Block 250, Foor and Swickheimer Subdivision, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to prepare property for commercial use; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.**

Mayor Rios said there have been no changes in content or format since Council approved the first reading of the Ordinance on January 12, 2021.

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the second and final reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1<sup>st</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) to B-1 (General Business District) for property located at 1711-1715 Sixteenth Street; also known as 10.57 acres embracing a portion of Tract 8, lying west of Texas State Highway 35 relief route, and the east one-half of Tract 84, Block 250, Foor and Swickheimer Subdivision, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to prepare property for commercial use; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Council Member Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**17. Deliberate and act on second and final reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1<sup>st</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) to B-1 (General Business District) for property located at 1123 West Market Street; also known as Lot 7 and Lots 16-20, Block 4, West Terrace Subdivision Unit 1, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to bring land use into a conforming zoning district; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.**

Mayor Rios said there have been no changes in format or content since Council approved the first reading of the Ordinance on January 12, 2021.

**MOTION:** Council Member Saski moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1<sup>st</sup> Single Family Dwelling District) to B-1 (General Business District) for property located at 1123 West Market Street; also known as Lot 7 and Lots 16-20, Block 4, West Terrace Subdivision Unit 1, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to bring land use into a conforming zoning district; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**18. Deliberate and act on Resolution authorizing the City Manager to provide the necessary surveys, appraisals, and right-of-way closure process for the City Council to consider the exchange of land between the City of Rockport owning the portion of Sweet Bay Avenue that lies directly between Aransas County Appraisal District ID #17280 (Lots 15-16, Block 4, Denver Heights Subdivision, also known as 2403 Lady Claire Street) and ID # 17307 (Lots 1-2, Block 7, Denver Heights Subdivision, also known as 2331 Lady Claire Street) and Mr. James Elkins owning Lots 18 and 20 of Block 5, Denver Heights Subdivision.**

Assistant to the City Manager Kimberly Henry informed the Council that Mr. James Elkins had approached the City about exchanging property to join two pieces of his existing property, and to enlarge the City's park area near the swimming pool. Ms. Henry explained the property that Mr. Elkins would like to trade are Lots 18 and 20 of Block 5, Denver Heights Subdivision which would add additional land to our City park. Ms. Henry said the property that Mr. Elkins would like to exchange is the piece of unimproved Street right-of-way (known as Sweet Bay Avenue). Ms. Henry stated there are no plans to develop Sweet Bay Avenue and there are no dedicated utilities or drainage in the existing right-of-way. Ms. Henry explained that for the City to consider these two pieces of property for exchange each piece of property will have to be surveyed and appraised and the estimated cost for the surveys is \$450 each and the estimated cost for the appraisals is \$600.00 to \$800.00. Ms. Henry further explained if the exchange is deemed to be equal to, or better, for the City, it would be brought back to the Council for approval, and the last step would be for Mr. Elkins to go through the process to close/vacate that portion of Sweet Bay Avenue.

City Manager Kevin Carruth said Mr. Elkins owns several lots in that area and several years ago the City purchased the two lots closest to the Hike and Bike trail because of issues with encroachment. Mr. Carruth stated if the property is exchanged it would put the right-of-way portion on the tax rolls and make it productive.

Mr. James Elkins addressed the Council. Mr. Elkins said his oldest son would like to build a home there if the exchange happens. Mr. Elkins expressed it is a win-win situation.

Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Carruth.

**MOTION:** Council Member Hattman moved to approve the Resolution authorizing the City Manager to provide the necessary surveys, appraisals, and right-of-way closure process for the City Council to consider the exchange of land between the City of Rockport owning the portion of Sweet Bay Avenue that lies directly between Aransas County Appraisal District ID #17280 (Lots 15-16, Block 4, Denver Heights Subdivision, also known as 2403 Lady Claire Street) and ID # 17307 (Lots 1-2, Block 7, Denver Heights Subdivision, also known as 2331 Lady Claire Street) and Mr. James Elkins owning Lots 18 and 20 of Block 5, Denver Heights Subdivision. Council Member Saski seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **19. Hear and deliberate on status of COVID-19 and response efforts.**

Mayor Rios said he had received two Citizen Participation Forms to address this Agenda item.

- 1) Andrew Kane, 2106 Lakeview Drive: Mr. Kane commented the state is clear with directives about who can get the COVID-19 vaccine and he was shocked to hear City staff had received COVID-19 shots and City Council had been offered the vaccination and taxpayers had not been given a chance to receive the vaccination.

Mayor Rios stated Mr. Kane had made statements that he disagreed with. Mayor Rios outlined the Phase 1 requirements and stated Mr. Kane had stated the City Council has been vaccinated.

Mayor Rios declared he went to Robstown to receive his vaccine, and the City staff who were vaccinated qualified under the Phase 1 requirements.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho stated 25 employees were offered the vaccine and several did not take it. Mr. Donoho said cities are checking for COVID in their wastewater systems and we have employees in contact with sewage and they come in contact with other employees and the public every day. Mr. Donoho added government entities are working together to determine the best method of distributing available vaccine and we have been working with Nueces County who has been very helpful with helping smaller communities. Mr. Donoho declared that everyone who received the vaccine met the Phase 1 criteria.

City Manager Kevin Carruth said an entire shift in the Rockport Police Department had to quarantine. Mr. Carruth stated the City has 130 employees and we had the opportunity to give 25 vaccines and all those recipients met the Phase 1B criteria. Mr. Carruth declared nobody got a special deal.

Mayor Rios stated the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) was on site supervising the vaccine distribution at the Fulton Convention Center with the lead doctor being on site. Mayor Rios said Mr. Kane thought 25 doses should have been as a test and that would be fruitless; there were 300 vaccinations done that day and we proved to the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) and DSHS that we could successfully distribute the vaccine at a single location. Mayor Rios added local authorities had about 24 hours to line up individuals to receive the vaccine that day. Mayor Rios declared that for Mr. Kane to criticize us was completely unwarranted and to accuse the City of playing favorites is totally false.

Council Member Saski asked Mr. Kane if the Mayor's explanations had satisfied him and if not, why not.

Mr. Kane replied the explanations did not satisfy him and stated: "We're in week six of this and we weren't ready for this and at the last minute we had to call around and get 300 people and left a lot of people out." Mr. Kane said everyone did not meet the criteria for the vaccine.

Council Member Saski asked Mr. Kane where he had heard that everyone did not meet the criteria for the vaccine.

Council Member Cunningham stated he had told Mr. Kane that he had been offered the vaccine.

Council Member Saski asked Council Member Cunningham if he met the over 65 years of age criteria and why was that an issue.

Council Member Cunningham said he did meet the criteria it was not an issue for him.

Council Member Saski expressed that it seemed like something else was going on and it was very uncomfortable.



Council Member Cunningham asked Mr. Carruth how the City plans to handle things while waiting on the second dose of vaccine.

Mr. Carruth answered the City will continue the social distancing and safety protocols.

- 2) Wayne Westbrook, 710 Litron: Mr. Litron stated he wanted to talk about the Rockport Little League not being allowed to use the balls fields at Memorial Park.

Mayor Rios informed Mr. Westbrook his comments did not pertain to this Agenda Item, and per the Texas Open Meetings Act the Council could not address Mr. Westbrooks questions or comments. Mayor Rios said Mr. Westbrook could call him tomorrow and he would be happy to talk to him about this.

## **20. Hear and deliberate on redistricting plans for 2021.**

City Manager Kevin Carruth said the City will be required to evaluate and possibly redraw its City Council Wards. Mr. Carruth stated the City adjusted Ward boundaries in 2011 and did the work inhouse, but the following issues make completing the redistricting task ourselves more complex than in 2011: 1) Our population total will likely exceed 10,000. This will require Aransas County precinct lines to match the City's Ward lines inside the City limits; 2) Annexations over the last 10 years have significantly altered the City's footprint, population density, and population center; 3) Hurricane Harvey's destruction, particularly of multifamily housing, and resulting rebuilding (or lack of rebuilding) has changed housing patterns; and 4) Ongoing recovery projects and the increase in private development are exceeding available staff capacity. Redistricting will consume a large number of FTEs to complete and we do not have the software to assist in the effort. Mr. Carruth said he is seeking Council direction to take and any specifications to include.

Mayor Rios asked when the work has to be completed.

Mr. Carruth answered by the May 2022 election.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villas asked if this could be discussed at the February Strategic Planning Workshop. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa said the City does not have the man-power for this task.

Mr. Carruth said this could be an item for discussion at the Strategic Planning Workshop, but he needed a consensus from the Council on what they want. Mr. Carruth expressed firms that do this type of work are being hired now and we need to make a decision really soon.

Mayor Rios said the Council needed to know the cost for an outside firm to conduct the redistricting.

Council Member Cunningham asked what the process is to ensure they are familiar with neighborhood areas.

Mr. Carruth answered the firm meets with the City and asks where we think lines should be drawn;

they look at community interests and current Council Wards. Mr. Carruth said they will make the best fit and come back to Council several times.

Council Member Cunningham asked how you coordinate Precinct lines with Ward Lines.

Mayor Rios answered that is why we need outside help.

Council Member Saski stated this is not an overnight thing and there will need to be input. Council Member Saski said a decision on how to do the redistricting needed to be made quickly.

Council Member Hattman said a cost analysis was needed before a decision could be made.

Mr. Carruth said he will get quotes from at least two firms by the Strategic Planning Workshop.

Mayor Rios said it was his recommendation to go with staff recommendation to hire an outside firm to conduct the redistricting and get some cost numbers from at least two firms.

## **21. Reports from Council.**

At this time, the City Council will report/update on all committee assignments, which may include the following: Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation; Aransas Pathways Steering Committee; Building and Standards Commission; Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program; Coastal Bend Council of Government; Coastal Bend Mayors Group; Park & Leisure Services Advisory Board; Planning & Zoning Commission; Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce; Aransas County Storm Water Management Advisory Committee; Rockport Cultural Arts District, Swimming Pool Operations Advisory Committee; Tourism Development Council; Tree & Landscape Committee; YMCA Development Committee; Texas Maritime Museum, Fulton Mansion, Rockport Center for the Arts, Aransas County, Aransas County Independent School District, Aransas County Navigation District, Town of Fulton, and Texas Municipal League. No formal action can be taken on these items at this time.

Council Member Saski extended his thanks to staff for continuing to perform for this City in an excellent manner. He expressed he is behind staff 100%.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa said he helped during the drive-through vaccination. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa thanked everyone for the hard work; it was a great event – ray of hope for those that received vaccine.

Council Member Cunningham said Aransas County Navigation District Chair Malcolm Dieckow sponsored an event at the Beach Park Pavilion and it was well attended; Bel Air Engineering has been hired to do another study of Little Bay.

Council Member Hattman said the Aransas Pathways Tule Park bridge is going to be rebuilt. Council Member Hattman thanked the City and County for doing the best they can in the circumstances. Council Member Hattman said she appreciated what everyone is doing.

Mayor Rios said the County and City had received a 48-hour notice on the Wednesday before the vaccine was being delivered to Rockport. Mayor Rios stated the process for vaccinations had been practiced and worked out ahead of time and we were able to mobilize and prepared for every type of weather event. Mayor Rios added we learned a lot and learned we could administer 900-1200 vaccinations a day. Mayor Rios expressed it was nice to know that all the planning that had been done made the event successful.

Mayor Rios informed everyone that he, Mayor Pro-Tem Villa and City Manager Carruth had attended the Coastal Bend Mayors meeting in Mathis where COVID, legislative issues and water was discussed. Mayor Rios said it is frightening and reassuring that elected officials have the same issues in each city and City public officials are taking the brunt of complaints because a lot of it is misinformation. Mayor Rios re-assured everyone that we will get past this and the overwhelming majority is ready to get this behind us.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa asked for a report on Memorial Park as it relates to COVID.

Parks and Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez said staff is still following sanitation protocol at Memorial Park; playgrounds and benches are sanitized by fogging three times or more a week and the bathroom is sanitized three times a day. Mr. Martinez expressed staff is doing everything they can to be safe. Mr. Martinez stated the City is looking at opening other areas of the Park but those areas have to be COVID safe; the City would have to step up sanitation protocol even farther.

City Manager Kevin Carruth stated there is incorrect information on social media - the City has not kicked the Little League off of ball fields; he asked that this incorrect information be corrected. Mr. Carruth explained the City is waiting on data and normally the Agreement with the Little League is signed in March. Mr. Carruth added no decision had been made if the League will be allowed on the fields; the decision will be based on data. Mr. Carruth said the City encourages the League to proceed with registration like normal times and the City has not done anything to impede what the League normally does.

Mr. Martinez stated City staff has continued to do what they normally do for the fields.

Council Member Cunningham reminded everyone of the Aransas County Sesquicentennial kickoff at the History Center on Saturday. Council Member Cunningham said they will be unveiling some exhibits and he looks forward to a greater celebration in June.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa informed everyone the San Patricio & Aransas Counties Agricultural and Homemakers Show started today. Aransas County had Grand Champion animals in several categories as well as a couple of Showmanship awards. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa announced the auction is Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Carruth stated Consumer Science category also started today.

Council wished all the participants good luck.

**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:**

**22. Section 551.087 – Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations: 380 Agreement.**

At 8:02 p.m., Mayor Rios convened the Rockport City Council into an executive session pursuant to provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in Section.087 – Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations: 380 Agreement.

**Open Session**

**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 sessions noted herein, or regular agenda items, noted above, and/or related items.**

At 8:33 p.m., Mayor Rios reconvened the Rockport City Council into open session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to take any necessary actions related to the executive sessions noted herein, or regular agenda items, noted above, and/or related items.

No action was taken.

**23. Adjournment.**

At 8:33 p.m., Council Member Hattman moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Saski. Motion carried unanimously.



**ATTEST:**

  
Teresa Valdez, City Secretary

**APPROVED:**  
  
Patrick R. Rios, Mayor