

**REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS
October 9, 2017
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Mark Denman, Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Mossman, Councilmembers Don Matter, John Mahon, Jonathan Amdur, and Bob Warters

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ABSENT: Bryce Klug (arrived 7:03pm)

OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney Dick Gregg Jr., City Manager Jason Reynolds, City Secretary Sandra Ham, Assistant City Manager Mary Chambers, Finance Director Csilla Stiles, Police Chief Kenneth Campbell, Fire Chief Tom George, Public Works Director Paul Lopez, Presiding Judge Holly Williamson, and Planning Commission Chair Roscoe Lee

PRESIDING: Mayor Mark Denman

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mayor Mark Denman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced a quorum of Council was present with six elected officials in attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Pastor Al Scholz of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. The Pledges to the American and Texas flags were led by Boy Scout Alec Biggerstaff. Mayor Denman presented Mr. Biggerstaff a certificate of appreciation and posed for a photo.

APPOINTMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

The was a change in order of presentation from the posted Agenda, with the original order detailed as A) Presentation of a Check to Wings Over Houston, B) Presentation of a Check to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, C) Presentation of a Check to Offshore Thunder Productions, D) Presentation of CANBE Legacy Bench Program, E) Presentation of a Proclamation for Arbor Day, F) Recognition of National Night Out Block Captains, and G) Recognition of Citizen for Harvey Relief Fund Coordination.

Presentation of a Check to Wings Over Houston

Mayor Denman presented Wings Over Houston Board Member Patrick Hutchins a check in the amount of \$2,500 from the Hotel/Motel Tax fund. Mr. Hutchins described the upcoming event at Ellington Airport, which will feature the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. A photo was taken of Mayor Denman and Mr. Hutchins.

Presentation of a Check to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

Mayor Denman presented Debbie Gutierrez a check in the amount of \$2,500 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Ms. Gutierrez thanked the City for the funding and gave a brief overview of their program, which raises funds for scholarships for Clear Creek and Friendswood students. Last year the Houston Livestock

Show & Rodeo awarded nine scholarships to local students. A photo was taken of Mayor Denman and Ms. Gutierrez.

Presentation of a Check to Offshore Thunder Productions

Mayor Denman presented Paul Robinson of Offshore Thunder Productions a check in the amount of \$5,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax fund. Mr. Robinson thanked the City for the funding and noted it is the 10th year of the Texas Outlaw Challenge. A photo was taken of Mayor Denman and Mr. Robinson.

Recognition of Citizen for Harvey Relief Fund Coordination

Mayor Denman recognized Stacey Amdur for her coordination efforts of the Nassau Bay Employees Harvey Relief Fund. The fund raised approximately \$22,000 and benefited 16 City of Nassau Bay employees affected by Hurricane Harvey. Mrs. Amdur thanked the 133 individuals who donated to the fund. A photo was taken of Mayor Denman and Mrs. Amdur.

Presentation of CANBE Legacy Bench Program

Gayle Nelson, Chairperson for CANBE, provided a brief presentation on CANBE's Legacy Bench Program. The Legacy Bench Program, an extension of CANBE's brick program, will raise funds for benches in the City's parks. Mrs. Nelson indicated the new benches will ease the burden of care for the Public Works department, as they will be manufactured with a more durable material. Additionally, the program will help standardize the benches across the parks.

Recognition of National Night Out Block Captains

Mayor Denman invited all National Night Out block captains in attendance to come forward to be recognized for their efforts during National Night Out. He thanked the captains for their hard work and congratulated them for the success of their parties. A photo was taken of Mayor Denman and the block captains.

Presentation of a Proclamation for Arbor Day

Mayor Denman invited Betty Armstrong, President of the Nassau Bay Garden Club, and Garden Club officers in attendance to come forward in honor of Arbor Day. Mayor Denman proclaimed Wednesday, November 8, 2017 as Arbor Day and stated the proclamation will be formally presented the day of the event. The members invited everyone to attend the ceremony at Howard Ward Park for the planting of a red drum maple tree. A photo was taken of Mayor Denman, Mrs. Armstrong, and Garden Club members present.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on the adoption of an ordinance providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of an ad valorem tax for Tax Year 2017 (Fiscal Year 2018)

City Manager Reynolds noted the previously adopted budget is based on the same tax rate as last year, the rate being 0.742120/\$100. Mayor Denman opened the public hearing for anyone wishing to comment on the adoption of the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2018.

Public Hearing was opened at 7:26 p.m.

There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was immediately closed.

Adoption of an ordinance providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of an ad valorem tax for Tax Year 2017 (Fiscal Year 2018) (first and only reading)

Councilmember Bob Warters indicated disapproval of the motion, and proposed for Council to approve the effective tax rate of 0.766480. Councilmember Warters cited the reduction of the reserve fund in 2017 for operational expenses as a strong justification to increase the tax rate up to the effective tax rate. Councilmember Warters argued adoption of the effective tax rate of 0.766480 would better reflect the spending of the City. He noted this increase would provide for an additional tax of approximately \$70.00 per year on a \$300,000 home.

Mayor Denman was in favor of the proposed tax rate of 0.742120, as it is recommended by City Manager Reynolds and Finance Director Stiles. For clarification purposes, Councilmember Jonathan Amdur inquired if the tax rate was the same as Fiscal Year 2017, with Mrs. Stiles replying it was the same tax rate.

The caption of the ordinance reads as follows (first and only reading):

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY, ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF AN AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE CURRENT TAX YEAR OF 2017 AT THE RATE OF SEVENTY FOUR POINT TWO HUNDRED TWELVE THOUSANDTHS CENTS (74.2120¢) ON EACH ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING AND SUPPORTING THE CITY AND OF PAYING THE INTEREST ON AND ESTABLISHING A DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR THE REDEMPTION OF BONDED INDEBTEDNESS FOR THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS.

(Said Ordinance is of record in Ordinance Book No. 13 of the City of Nassau Bay, Texas, being Ordinance No. O2017-761.)

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Mossman, seconded by Councilmember Don Matter, for the property tax rate to be adopted at 0.742120, which is effectively a 3.2 percent decrease in the tax rate. This tax rate consists of a Maintenance and Operation Rate of 0.694113 and a Debt Service Rate of 0.048007.

Mayor Denman took a roll call vote for the approval of the tax rate:

Councilmember Warters – Oppose
Councilmember Amdur – Approve
Councilmember Klug – Approve
Councilmember Mahon – Approve
Councilmember Matter – Approve
Mayor Pro Tem Mossman – Approve
Mayor Denman – Approve

Motion passed 6 – 1.

CITIZENS' REQUEST FOR HEARING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

Public Hearing was opened at 7:21 p.m.

Katheryn Hathaway, 18647 Cape Charles, expressed appreciation to the Fire Department, Public Works, and volunteers who helped her during Hurricane Harvey. Additionally, Mrs. Hathaway commented on the current home elevation grant cycle, and requested further examination on the stalling of funds.

Paul Robinson, Texas Outlaw Challenge, described the upcoming event, noting it to be the 2nd largest boat event in the area. Mr. Robinson proceeded with a donation on behalf of Doug and Carolyn Comrie, to assist local organizations in the aftermath of Harvey. Mr. Robinson announced a \$1,000 donation to Nassau Bay Baptist Church.

There were no other public comments and the hearing was closed.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS

There were no councilmember comments or reports.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mayor Denman did not make any additional comments or reports.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS & COMMITTEES

City Manager

City Manager Jason Reynolds began his comments by thanking staff and department chiefs for their efforts during National Night Out. He apologized that he was unable to make it all hosted parties, but noted overall feedback regarding the event was positive. Mr. Reynolds proceeded by summarizing the City's upcoming events, including the Harris County election, as the City will host a polling location at City Hall on November 7th. Additional events include the Arbor Day ceremony on November 8th and City Hall closure on November 13th in observance of Veterans Day. Additionally, City Manager Reynolds described the current light project on NASA 1, which will light the palm trees in seasonal colors, and assist in bringing attention to Nassau Bay Town Square.

Fire Department

President Matt Roper presented the Fire Department's September status report, beginning first by expressing appreciation to those citizens who hosted a National Night Out block party. At the time, Mr. Roper reported man hours were lower than normal, due to members taking rest from Hurricane Harvey. The department responded to 37 calls and logged 695 man hours. The Fire Department will be holding their monthly membership meeting on October 10th, and expects to have 41 members.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Roscoe Lee provided an update of the most recent Committee meeting, in which the Committee was tasked in overseeing the Keep Texas Beautiful and Playful City programs. He remarked on Mrs. Nelson's Legacy Bench report to Council, and stated the Committee is in favor of such program, but requests coordination between CANBE and the Parks Committee before bench installation.

Mr. Lee proceeded by providing an extensive overview of the damage to the City's parks after Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Lee shared specifics on the closure of David Braun Park, along with photos of damage, and progress made by the Public Works department. He indicated the peninsula to still be closed, and remarked on the upcoming tour with Mayor Denman, Public Works Director Lopez and City Manager Reynolds to evaluate damage. The Parks & Recreation Committee will coordinate a future date for volunteer clean-up efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda listed the following items for approval:

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on September 11, 2017

Resolution designating John Mahon as representative and Jonathan Amdur as alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council 2018 General Assembly

The caption of the resolution reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS, DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE AND AN ALTERNATE TO THE 2018 HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Said Resolution is of record in Resolution Book No. 19 of the City of Nassau Bay, Texas, being Resolution No. R2017-2123.)

It was moved by Councilmember Don Matter, seconded by Councilmember Bob Warters, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution reappointing Holly Williamson as Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court

The caption of the resolution reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS, REAPPOINTING A PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT.

(Said Resolution is of record in Resolution Book No. 19 of the City of Nassau Bay, Texas, being Resolution No. R2017-2124.)

It was moved by Councilmember Don Matter, seconded by Councilmember Jonathan Amdur, to reappoint Holly Williamson as Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Mayor Denman invited Presiding Judge Williamson to the podium to provide an update on court activities. Judge Williamson expressed appreciation to Council and was honored to be granted reappointment. Judge Williamson began her report by conveying her pleasure in working with Municipal Court Clerk Catrina Maxwell, who she believes to be very educated and active in learning the Texas court process. Furthermore, Judge Williamson requested City consideration of additional software purchases, which would streamline online payments and enable the City to become paperless. Brief discussion was held on the cost of the new technology and the administrative effectiveness of the court modules.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

Approval of ordinance providing for the termination of the previously signed Declaration of Disaster dated the 23rd day of August, 2017

City Manager Reynolds indicated approval of Ordinance No. O2017-762 would provide for the conclusion of the Disaster Declaration from Hurricane Harvey.

The caption of the ordinance reads as follows (first and only reading):

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TERMINATION OF DISASTER DECLARATION AS PROVIDED FOR HEREIN, AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS OF FACT AND OTHER CONCLUSIONS AS SET OUT HEREIN

(Said Ordinance is of record in Ordinance Book No. 13 of the City of Nassau Bay, Texas, being Ordinance No. O2017-762.)

It was moved by Councilmember Don Matter, seconded by Councilmember John Mahon, to approve the first and only reading of Ordinance No. O2017-762 terminating the previously signed Declaration of Disaster.

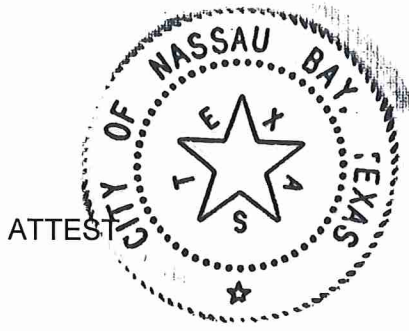
Motion passed 7 – 0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted and/or amended this 14th day of November, A.D. 2017.

CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS



ATTEST

Sandra Mossman
Mayor Pro Tem

Sandra V. Ham
City Secretary