

**REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 11, 2019
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Mark Denman, Mayor Pro Tem Don Matter, Councilmembers Ashley Graves, John Mahon, Jonathan Amdur, and Matt Prior

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ABSENT: Councilmember Bryce Klug

OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney Dick Gregg Jr., City Attorney Chris Gregg, City Manager Jason Reynolds, City Secretary Sandra Ham, Police Chief Tim Cromie, Public Works Director Paul Lopez, Fire Chief Tom George, Human Resources & Special Events Manager Chani Honeycutt, and Planning Commission Chairman 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 City Secretary Sandra Ham. The Pledges to the American and Texas flags were led by Eagle Scout Stephen Himel-Hansen.

APPOINTMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

Presentation of Proclamation to Stephen Himel-Hansen in Honor of Earning the Prestigious Rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America

Mayor Mark Denman congratulated Stephen Himel-Hansen for completing all the requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Additionally, Mayor Denman read a proclamation declaring December 23, 2019 "Stephen Himel-Hansen Day" in the City of Nassau Bay. Stephen provided a brief overview of his Eagle Scout project, in which he launched CANBE's Legacy Bench program. With his project, Stephen constructed, repaired, and installed several Legacy benches in and around the City, overall helping to beautify the City of Nassau Bay. Mayor Denman presented Stephen the proclamation and posed for a photo.

Presentation of a Check to the Clear Creek Environmental Foundation

Mayor Denman presented a check in the amount of \$4,000 to the Clear Creek Environmental Foundation (CCEF). Representatives Lloyd Thornton and AJ O'Donnell were present to accept the check. Mayor Denman continued the presentation by describing CCEF's past clean-up efforts of the Nassau Bay peninsula. Nassau Bay's donation to the Foundation greatly reduces the expense of contracting with a third-party company for similar clean-up efforts. Mayor Denman continued by inviting residents to join this year's peninsula cleanup efforts on February 23rd at 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING: None

CITIZENS' REQUEST FOR HEARING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Denman announced a Public Hearing for citizens to address Council regarding issues and concerns.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:12 p.m.

There being no one wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was immediately closed.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS

Councilmember Matt Prior recognized the staff's efforts towards the recently held volunteer banquet. He emphasized the event as a great avenue for recognizing the City's volunteers and continued by encouraging more citizens to volunteer.

Councilmember Jonathan Amdur echoed similar sentiments regarding the volunteer banquet, and also recognized the Fire Department for hosting the event in the new Fire & EMS Facility. The Department had three calls the same day and were still gracious hosts for the event. Councilmember Amdur also recognized Roscoe Lee for his forty years of volunteer service to the City. He continued by recognizing the Police Department for a recent incident involving a Nassau Bay resident. He commended the Department for a job well done, and congratulated the officers involved for their quick thinking in apprehending the perpetrator.

Councilmember Ashley Graves also praised staff on a successful volunteer banquet, and also expressed appreciation to Roscoe Lee for his service to the City. Councilmember Graves congratulated Stephen Himel-Hanson for earning the rank of Eagle Scout and thanked him for the work he completed for CANBE. She noted CANBE will be preparing to host a fall fundraiser, and anyone interested in volunteering should contact her.

Mayor Pro Tem Don Matter acknowledged Roscoe Lee for his extraordinary volunteer service.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mayor Mark Denman introduced Nassau Bay resident John Steiger, remarking on Mr. Steiger's recent feature in the Nassau Bay Compass Rose newsletter. John Steiger retired from Delta over 20 years ago. Both his sons Pat and Mike were in the Air Force and are now commercial pilots. His grandson is currently a B1 Bomber pilot.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS & COMMITTEES

City Manager

City Manager Jason Reynolds began his comments by thanking staff, the Fire Department, and Public Works for their efforts in another successful volunteer banquet. Mr. Reynolds continued by announcing the upcoming Annual Peninsula Cleanup on February 23rd from 8:30am to 12:00pm. In observance of Presidents' Day, he noted City Hall will be closed on February 18th. Lastly, he announced the bid opening for both the Nassau Bay Landscape Artwork Amenity and the Nassau Bay Park Pavilion Repairs will be on February 21st at City Hall.

Police Department

Police Chief Tim Cromie provided an overview on the topic of speeding and speed limits within the City. The Department evaluated the City's January 2019 traffic statistics, with Chief Cromie noting of the 78 traffic stops completed by the Department, 20 were related to speeding, 14 were for running a stop sign, and 48 were for other. He stated the Department has placed a speed indicator in various areas around the City as a reminder to drivers to reduce their speeds. Additionally, the Department will utilize social media as an educational tool reminding drivers of the posted speed limits in the City. The Department will continue data collection and will explore various way to ensure individuals traveling in Nassau Bay are aware of the lower than average residential speed limit. Chief Cromie emphasized education as his priority, rather than enforcement.

Fire Department

President Matt Roper presented the Fire Department's January status report, noting the Department is attempting to better capture volunteer hours with an app-based volunteer sign-in system. Mr. Roper stated the Department responded to 20 calls and logged 1,595 man hours. Current membership holds at 36 members, with three of those members categorized as special assignment.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Roscoe Lee provided an update of the most recent Committee meeting, in which he noted there would be further discussion on the Little Free Library concept in the New Business portion of the meeting. In his report, Mr. Lee first acknowledged Eagle Scout Stephen Himel-Hansen, remarking on the significant upgrade the new benches are for the City.

Chairman Lee expressed appreciation to the Public Works Department for their efforts in maintaining the parks. He continued by summarizing the updates to Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful's strategic plan. Mr. Lee provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the strides made in resolving a number of the open items on the strategic plan. He ended his report by encouraging volunteers to participate in the upcoming Clear Creek Environmental Foundation Annual Peninsula Cleanup on February 23rd. Chairman Lee noted he did receive additional supplies from Keep Texas Beautiful to assist in the efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda listed the following items for approval:

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on January 14, 2019

Approval of the Economic Development Corporation Minutes of October 29, 2018 as approved by the EDC at its meeting held on February 4, 2019

Adoption of Ordinance O2019-781 calling the May 4, 2019 City Officers' Election for the purpose of electing three Councilmembers, Positions 1, 3 & 5 (second and final reading)

The caption of the ordinance reads as follows (second and final reading):

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS, ORDERING A REGULAR CITY ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SAID CITY ON THE 4TH DAY OF MAY 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THREE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL; DESIGNATING THE DAY(S) OF THE ELECTION(S) AND THE POLLING PLACE; PROVIDING THAT ALL DULY QUALIFIED RESIDENT ELECTORS SHALL BE QUALIFIED TO VOTE; PRESCRIBING A FORM OF THE BALLOT; PROVIDING A NOTICE OF ELECTION; AUTHORIZING THAT THE ELECTION SHOULD BE HELD JOINTLY WITH HARRIS COUNTY; CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO SAID ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

(Said Ordinance is of record in Ordinance Book No. 13 of the City of Nassau Bay, Texas, being Ordinance No. O2019-781.)

Appointment of Bob Wartens, Jim Edwards, Carl Drexel, and Jerry Newberry to the Street Task Force

It was moved by Councilmember Jonathan Amdur, seconded by Councilmember Matt Prior, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Parks & Recreation Committee / Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful's recommendation to install a "Little Free Library" in the Nassau Bay parks system

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman Roscoe Lee noted this project was discussed at the joint Parks & Recreation Committee and Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful meeting held on January 23rd. Resident Omar Abotteen is the sponsor of the project. Although some concerns with liability and maintenance were discussed, the Parks & Recreation Committee and Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful both recommend Council approve the project.

Mr. Lee invited Nassau Bay resident Omar Abotteen to present to Council a summary of the "Little Free Library" concept. Mr. Abotteen provided a brief overview, noting the Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange program. The library comes in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. If approved, the Little Free Library will be installed, maintained, and monitored by Mr. Abotteen to avoid impact on City staff. Mr. Abotteen noted there has been successful installation of this type of project in other neighboring cities without problems or liability issues.

Chairman Roscoe Lee noted both the Parks & Recreation Committee and Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful recommend the installation of a Little Free Library in a Nassau Bay park, but with certain stipulations. Mr. Lee noted for approval, Mr. Abotteen would be required to maintain the library, and if the library should ever come into disrepair, or if Mr. Abotteen moves from Nassau Bay, the City would be allowed to remove the library. At this time, David Braun Park would be the best location for installation of the library.

Discussion continued regarding the project details. Councilmember Matt Prior inquired whether a Little Free Library was already in Nassau Bay, with Councilmember Ashley Graves noting there is a Little Free Library located in a resident's yard. She agreed a Little Free Library is best suited for a public location. Councilmember Jonathan Amdur requested Mr. Abotteen's commitment to the project and to taking necessary steps to ensure that its appearance stays clean and free of graffiti and defacement. Mr. Abotteen agreed. City Manager Jason Reynolds noted the City's previous hesitation towards the Little Free Library concept, but with Mr. Abotteen's commitment, he believes the City can support the project.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Don Matter, seconded by Councilmember Ashley Graves, to approve the installation of a "Little Free Library" in the Nassau Bay parks system.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Approval of a resolution appointing Pete Seroka to the NASA Area Management District (NAMD) Board of Directors to fill an unexpired term set to expire on June 1, 2019

City Manager Jason Reynolds stated a vacancy exists on the NASA Area Management District (NAMD) Board of Directors, specifically Position 7. He noted there is a pro-active citizen willing to serve the unexpired term. Councilmember Jonathan Amdur recognized Pete Seroka as the recommended individual to fill the vacancy, noting Mr. Seroka has graduated from Nassau Bay 101. Councilmember Amdur thanked Mr. Seroka for his volunteer enthusiasm.

The caption of the resolution reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY,
TEXAS, APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE NASA AREA MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT (NAMD) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Said Resolution is of record in Resolution Book No. 19 of the City of Nassau Bay,
Texas, being Resolution No. R2019-2164.)

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Don Matter, seconded by Councilmember Jonathan Amdur, to appoint Pete Seroka to the NASA Area Management District (NAMD) Board of Directors.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Received an update on Code Enforcement and how it impacts Economic Development in Nassau Bay

City Manager Jason Reynolds stated the Code Enforcement team is working to make Nassau Bay neighborhoods safe, strong, and attractive. The City has recently created a new online tool for residents to see the most severe code enforcement cases, both commercial and residential properties. Residents will be able to see the code violations for each property listed, the action being taken, and the expected time period for remediation. City Manager Reynolds noted this map is not intended to be a comprehensive list of code enforcement issues.

Councilmember Ashley Graves believes the tool is great method for sharing code enforcement information to Nassau Bay residents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. as authorized by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Open Meetings, Subchapter D, Exceptions to Requirement that Meeting be Open, with Mayor Denman reading from the posted agenda the following topic to be discussed in Executive Session:

1. §551.087 Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations - Discussion of economic development options.

Meeting returned to Open Session at 8:07 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Formation of a Joint Task Force with the Nassau Bay Economic Development Corporation and the City Council to facilitate action regarding economic development negotiations

It was moved by Councilmember Jonathan Amdur, seconded by Councilmember Matt Prior, to form a Joint Task Force with the Nassau Bay Economic Development Corporation and the City Council to facilitate action regarding economic development negotiations.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted and/or amended this 11th day of March, A.D. 2019.

ATTEST:



Sandra V. Ham
City Secretary



CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS



Mark A. Denman
Mayor