



City of League City, TX

300 West Walker
League City TX 77573

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, December 12, 2016

6:00 PM

Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center
400 West Walker Street

Council Work Session

The City Council of the City of League City, Texas, met in a work session in the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center at 400 West Walker Street on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor:

Pat Hallisey

City Council Members:

**Dan Becker
Hank Dugie
Larry Millican
Todd Kinsey
Greg Gripon
Keith Gross
Nick Long**

City Manager:

Mark Rohr

Deputy City Manager:

John Baumgartner

Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance:

Rebecca Underhill

City Attorney:

Nghiem Doan

City Secretary:

Diana M. Stapp

Chief of Police:

Michael Kramm

Director of Engineering:

Vacant

Acting Director of Human Resources/Civil Service:

April Patterson

Director of Parks & Cultural Services:

Chien Wei

Director of Planning/Development:

Paul Menzies

Director of Public Works:

Gabriel Menendez

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mayor Hallisey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and called the roll. All members of Council were present except Nick Long. Dan Becker attended by videoconference call.

Absent 1 - Nick Long

Present 7 - Pat Hallisey, Dan Becker, Hank Dugie, Larry Millican, Todd Kinsey,
Greg Gripon and Keith Gross

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING LEAGUE CITY'S PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

John Baumgartner, Deputy City Manager said on October 11, 2016 if council remembers we adopted an advocacy program. One of the elements of an advocacy program is to adopt a legislative agenda and the goal of a legislative agenda is to make sure we (staff) properly champion issues that are important to us as a city. So we want to raise the city's profile locally, regionally, statewide and nationally to better influence legislation and funding that affects our residents and business community. Again we talked about establishing a formalized legislative plan. In your packet was a resolution and in the outline is a number of objectives that we hope to accomplish. We talked about the type of legislation that gets funded. At your table today is some legislation that was sponsored by the Lieutenant Governor. Fundamentally what we see most of the effort is the legislation session is spent on fighting legislation that tends to de-road the Home Rule Authority. So I thought I would walk through the Exhibit A to the proposed resolution.

So part of the program is two SPECIFIC pieces of legislation that we want to advocate for and one is to support an amendment to HB1943 from the 2011 Legislative Session that provided for the recreational use of land that the public utility owns, occupies or leases. Specifically, what that means is Centerpoint owns a number of easements through our community, they are reluctant to share their easements for fear of liability with the public. What HB1943 did in Harris County in 2011 was it absolved them (Centerpoint) nuisance liability, providing limited release of liability. Centerpoint allows us to enter into an agreement to use those easements for trail purposes. This amendment would allow Galveston County to be covered and permit the construction of trails facilities in the Centerpoint rights-of-way by limiting their ability. If I remember correctly Fort Bend County is seeking the same relief. Every utility is different, Texas New-Mexico is not as particular and we can get into these easements more easily. What we would do is develop a position paper and send to our state representative and see if he can get that legislation amended. The second one is to support legislation that would provide a rebate State Hotel Motel Tax, State Sales Tax and State Alcoholic Beverage Taxes for a period of up to 10 years to League City to support the construction of a convention facility in our community.

The remainder of the presentation addresses support of legislation. Our HIGHEST PRIORITY is to support legislation for Municipal Powers, that supports or advances the principles of home rule authority and local control to allow for locally elected officials to make decisions that are beneficial to the interests of the City residents or that is otherwise beneficial to the City's interest. Classically this time of year a lot of legislations passes that we as municipal managers would say erode our authority. They include appraisal caps, tax caps, strengthened laws against annexations, strengthened laws against eminent domain. So it's not necessarily legislation that we would propose to champion but we would typically propose legislation to do that.

Another is Transportation, that supports expedited development of the Grand Parkway; particularly in Galveston Council. Support expanded regional transportation funding options. Support development of the 'Ike Dike' or similar hurricane protection system for League City, Galveston Bay and the southeast Texas coast. We already talked about legislation opposing Municipal Control, legislation that preempts or erodes home rule authority of City government and local control or is detrimental to cities, and Legislation that would impose an unfunded duty, responsibility or standard on local government. As tax caps, appraisal caps are proposed then we get unfunded mandates, then we struggle to come up with how we are going to fund that. One of the ways through that is to adopt fees instead of having taxes. Every community has their own opinion of whether it should be tax or fees to pay for services or a little bit of both. We have a little bit of both right now.

HIGH PRIORITY, truth in taxation, support streamlining and clarifying mandatory property tax rate adoption language and publications. Economic Development, support fairness and equity in the application of sales and use taxes to goods and services. Support economic development bills that create jobs which benefit the region. Transportation, support a transportation bill which provides dependable multi-year funding consistent with mobility needs. Support funding for the expansion of IH45, FM270, FM517 and FM646. Water, support a water plan that encourages conservation through contracts and rat structures and keeps revenues within the region they are collected. Support successful management of the Brazos and Trinity Rivers as sustainable and reliable water supply. Utilities, support the timely relocation of the utility facilities. We still struggle a little bit today with Five-Corners. We still have Comcast Cable out there and a fiber provider. They will get relocated before the roadway portion of that project but we like to keep their nose to the grind stone and keep them moving forward. Endorse legislation that would create local option surcharges to fund the undergrounding of utilities. Maybe that doesn't apply to us today but at some point in time if you want underground some utilities how to get pay for it. Endorse a change in the use of video Public Educational and Government (PEG) fees to allow use for operational expenses associated with running a cable television channel. Today the PEG funds that we collect on every Comcast Cable bill are specifically limited to equipment. So a little broadening in some of the uses would allow us to enhance our Channel 16 offerings. Finance, support the tax exempt status of municipal bonds.

Oppose legislation that would erode or otherwise diminish local control. This is examples of some of those that are out there: Municipal finances and revenues; Appraisal and revenue caps; Rollback limitations; Limitations of tax increment financing; Limitations on certificates of obligation; Operations; Employment and post-employment benefits; Local control over placement of electronic billboards; Expansion of collective bargaining rights; Annexation limitations. TML does a good job representing cities but a lot of times they need cities to write letters, provide testimony or pass additional resolutions. So again our goal as staff is to put the ideas out there, let Council understand what they are to the best of our ability and then we can take up action as we need to during the legislative session.

Support legislative programs of (except as they conflict with a City of League City position): Texas Municipal League; Texas Coalition for Affordable Power; Texas Coalition of Cities for Utility Issues; Galveston County; Clear Creek Independent School District, Dickinson Independent School District, Santa Fe Independent School District, League City Regional Chamber of Commerce, Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments.

City Council asked for additions of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) and Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce.

3. **DISCUSSION TO PLAN AND FACILITATE COUNCIL RETREAT FOR JANUARY 2017**

Council Member Larry Millican said I put this one because I believe this council above all others needs to have a retreat to get to know one another and start working in unison. I would like to schedule a retreat with a facilitator and I think it is desperately needed.

Council tasked the City Manager in designating a place and format.

4. **DISCUSS THE NEED TO CONDUCT AN ENVISIONING WORKSHOP FOR THE CITIZENS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2017**

Council Member Larry Millican said I believe that we need to engage our citizens and I think one of the ways we could do that would be an envisioning workshop similar to the one that we held back in 2015. They certainly were engaged at the last one and if we could do that again I think it would be a great thing to do.

5. **CONDUCT A WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO RECEIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS APPEARING ON THE MEETING AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 13, 2016 MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEAGUE CITY.**

NO VOTE OR ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:23 p.m. Mayor Hallisey said, there being no further business this meeting is adjourned.

PAT HALLISEY
MAYOR

DIANA M. STAPP
CITY SECRETARY

(SEAL)

MINUTES APPROVED: