



# City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
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## Meeting Minutes

### City Council Workshop

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Thursday, March 6, 2025

10:00 AM

Council Chambers

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**A. Mayor Paulette Guajardo to call the meeting to order.**

Mayor Guajardo called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**B. City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta to call the roll of the required Charter Officers**

City Secretary Rebecca Huerta called the roll and verified that a quorum of the City Council and the required Charter Officers were present to conduct the meeting.

Charter Officers: City Manager Peter Zanoni, City Attorney Miles Risley and City Secretary Rebecca Huerta

Note: Council Member Roy arrived at 10:07 a.m. and Council Member Cantu participated virtually at 10:13 a.m.

**Present** 9 - Mayor Paulette Guajardo, Council Member Roland Barrera, Council Member Gil Hernandez, Council Member Kaylynn Paxson, Council Member Eric Cantu, Council Member Carolyn Vaughn, Council Member Everett Roy, Council Member Sylvia Campos, and City Council Workshop Mark Scott

**C. BRIEFINGS**

[25-0337](#) Presentation and Discussion of Alternative Water Supply Projects

Dr. Michael Mintz and Dr. Darrell Brownlow with Catahoula LLC presented information on the following topics: project summary; brackish groundwater source; project cost; water flowing downhill; groundwater database; groundwater permitting; pipeline design considerations; pipeline route characteristics; and proposed schedule.

Ed Cross with Evangeline Laguna LLP presented information on the following topics: Evangeline groundwater project; Evangeline groundwater project highlights; reliable/drought-proof supply; and Evangeline groundwater is high quality.

Stacy Barna and Ruben Munoz with CDM Smith presented information on the following topics: Barney Davis power station site; Barney Davis site pictures; Barney Davis desalination plant-great potential; and advantages of Barney Davis desalination plant.

Sarah Garza with the Port of Corpus Christi presented information on the following topics: permit process overview and status; regulatory strategy desalination at Harbor

Island; six environmental precepts; overall plan; Harbor Island detail; intake structure; diffuser; distribution line; summary of potential impacts (avoided or minimized); studies and reports completed to date; intake and diffuser tunnels; intake structure; marine life return system; and diffuser detail.

Tate Tussing and Alex Cagle with Noria Energy presented information on the following topics: Noria Energy overview; who we are; leaders in floating solar: project development; large-scale floating solar on reservoirs; development success story: first of its kind; development case study: largest of its kind; FPV water quality benefits and evaporative savings; evaporative rates across Corpus Christi; water quality issues; FPV impact on evaporation and water quality; and next steps.

John Byrum with Nueces River Authority presented information on the following topics: state agency territorial jurisdiction; water supply needs; discussion with Legislators; Port of Corpus Christi working on 100 MGD Offshore Permits; summary of potential impacts (avoided or minimized); and next.

Council Members, City Manager Peter Zaroni, Dr. Mintz, Dr. Brownlow, Mr. Cross, Ms. Barna, Mr. Munoz, Ms. Garza, Mr. Tussing, Mr. Cagle, Kavi Ramakrishnan, and Mr. Byrum discussed the following topics: since last year's negotiations were terminated with Evangeline, they are now willing to sell their water rights to the City; the timeline for EV Ranch's project is 30 months; there is no environmental cost associated with Evangeline; Evangeline's completion timeline is 28 to 30 months; financing with a public sector would be more affordable; Noria Energy could complete their project within 12 months and be operational within 24 months; CDM Smith's financial cost is based on a further feasibility study; the EV Ranch project's Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) would range from 1,000 to 5,000 milligrams per year; the total water capacity for Evangeline is 25 Million Gallons Per Day (MGD); the quality and difference of salinity discharge at the Barney Davis Plant; the Nueces River Authority's estimated cost per thousand gallons is based on bonds sold over 20 years; how to minimize subsidence; the floating solar would have no negative impact to the recreational use of the lake; the Port needs a TCEQ permit for water rights and discharge; the state is exploring three plant locations; Evangeline does not need a permit from TCEQ; and Noria Energy would need to complete a scope of work for a feasibility study to determine cost for a solar package.

Chief Operating Officer of Corpus Christi Water Drew Molly presented information on the following topics: Inner Harbor Water Treatment Campus Roadmap; and Inner Harbor Water Treatment Campus.

Water Resource Manager of Corpus Christi Water Esteban Ramos presented information on the following topics: La Quinta Seawater Desalination Treatment Facility; and La Quinta Seawater Desalination Treatment Facility Roadmap.

Dan Olson with Garver presented information on the following topics: our agenda for today; types of potable reuse; non-potable reuse (NPR) is the basic level of reuse

requiring no advanced treatment processes; potable reuse comes in two primary forms-both get introduced into your drinking water system; indirect potable reuse (IPR) utilizes an environmental buffer; direct potable reuse (DPR) is similar to IPR but without the environmental buffer; Corpus Christi Water (CCW) operates a decentralized wastewater treatment system; infrastructure costs can outweigh some of the benefits of certain IPR scenarios; CCW has identified an area that is favorable for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR); there are a growing number of potable reuse projects in the State of Texas; scope of CCW water reuse project; task order number 1; and project timeline.

Director of Water Systems and Support Services Nick Winkelmann presented information on the following topics: Mary Rhodes Pipeline (MRP) I and II; MRP I and II water sources; pumping schedules; MRP condition assessment; program goal; AEP upgrades; MRP system improvement project; Air/Vacuum valve installation; and summary.

Director of Water Systems and Support Services Nick Winkelmann presented information on the following topics: Nueces River Groundwater Well Program; historical use; program goal; existing wells; new wells; well locations; new well construction; and summary.

Stacy Barna with CDM Smith presented information on the following topics: who is CDM Smith; background - CC Polymer Plant; potential water solution; and opportunities.

Council Members, City Manager Zanoni, Chief Operating Officer Molly, Director of Water Systems and Support Services Winkelmann, Water Resource Manager Ramos, Mr. Olson, and Ms. Barna discussed the following topics: what is the City's demand for water in terms of the drought; a Council Member's request for the environmental cost, timeline, permits, and how many gallons of water will be produced at Inner Harbor and La Quinta; a request for more details in terms of next steps of the Inner Harbor project; the wastewater reuse projects do not have a quick turnaround; the MRP pumping capacity is 79 MGD; the treatment cost for the reuse projects depend on the size of the facility; the costs for improvement of the MRP and the additional cost per thousand gallons of water on the wells; a request for CC Polymer's cost per thousand gallons; whether water flow at the desalination plant could be reduced, if necessary, to save on cost; a Council Member's concern that the City does not have a data model; if an additional 10 MGD can be added to the MRP; La Quinta's estimated cost is \$1.1 Billion with a five year timeline; and the importance of an accurate reflection of the City's water supply calculation.

#### **D. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Guajardo adjourned this meeting at 2:00 p.m.