



# City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
cctexas.com

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council Workshop Session

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Wednesday, July 21, 2021

1:30 PM

City Council Chambers

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#### SEAWATER DESALINATION WORKSHOP

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

Mayor Guajardo called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

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

City Secretary Rebecca L. 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 K. Risley and City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta.

Note: Council Member Barrera participated by telephone conference.

**Present**      8 - Mayor Paulette M. Guajardo, Council Member Roland Barrera, Council Member Gil Hernandez, Council Member Billy A. Lerma, Council Member John Martinez, Council Member Ben Molina, Council Member Mike Pusley, and Council Member Greg Smith

**Absent**        1 - Council Member Michael Hunter

**C. BRIEFINGS TO CITY COUNCIL:**

1. [21-0839](#) Seawater Desalination Workshop

Mayor Guajardo referred to Item 1.

Chief Operations Officer for Water Utilities Michael Murphy introduced the Seawater Desalination team: Director of Water Utilities Kevin Norton, Assistant Director of Water Quality & Treatment Gabriel Ramirez, Assistant Director of Wastewater Treatment Daniel Deng, Water Resource Manager Esteban Ramos, Strategic Communications Manager Amber Oetting, Environmental Engineer Maria Corona and Jason Cocklin with Freese and Nichols.

Director of Water Utilities Kevin Norton presented an update on the following topics: site selection strategy; all sites considered; and project site selection.

The following topics were presented by staff: permit application status - Inner Harbor and La Quinta; May Council retreat; under Mayor and Council's direction; supply versus

demand; the two sites; pros and cons of Inner Harbor; pros and cons of La Quinta; pipeline potential for La Quinta; environmental discharge study; Inner Harbor area site map; La Quinta area site map; Corpus Christi Bay salinity; what will be put back into the Bay; what about Mary Rhodes pipeline; how Mary Rhodes supplies the Coastal Bend; twenty-four million gallons more; balancing our water quality; operations and maintenance; and forward, together - property; power study; procurement; award contracts; and construction.

Council Members, City Manager Peter Zanoni, Mr. Murphy, the Seawater Desalination team and General Manager at San Patricio Municipal Water District Brian Williams discussed the following topics: everything being discussed today will focus on a 20 million gallons per day (MGD) plant; Harbor Island was eliminated as a potential site not only because of the location, but because of the power distribution and environmental impact on the discharge; Council Members would like all costs to be considered; all options are still being considered regarding design, build, manage and maintain; two years ago, the Mayor and City Council decided on Inner Harbor and La Quinta as the two desalination sites to consider; the Mary Rhodes pipeline includes the water rights and water contract; under the La Quinta site the \$4 per 1,000 gallons does not include the construction of pipeline to Corpus Christi; the focus of the desalination plant has always been what is best for the environment, the economy and the most sustainable; in 2020 less water was taken from the Nueces River, and more water was taken from the Mary Rhodes pipeline; a Council Member suggested disconnecting the Exxon plant from the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant and connecting it to the desalination plant, freeing up an additional 20 MGD at O.N. Stevens; CC Polymers would not have any negative impact on the production, intake or discharge; additional salt is not being added to the body of water; the only two ingredients that will be put back into the Bay are salt and water; in order to bring the firm yield calculation up to capacity, the Mary Rhodes pipeline needs to be up to 70 MGD; about 11 MGD are currently being delivered to the industrial users; industrial users will need about 36 MGD at full capacity; and the cost of water is the most important concern and issue in the decision making process.

#### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Guajardo adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.