



Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
cctexas.com

Meeting Minutes

City Council Workshop Session

Thursday, April 13, 2017

3:00 PM

1201 Leopard Street
Basement Training Room

Public Notice - - ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. COUNCIL MAY GIVE DIRECTION TO THE CITY MANAGER, BUT NO OTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AND NO PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE SOLICITED.

THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND SOUND ACTIVATED PAGERS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE TRAINING ROOM DURING MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

A. Mayor Pro Tem Lucy Rubio to call the meeting to order.

Mayor Pro Tem Lucy Rubio called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

Assistant City Secretary Paul Pierce 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 Margie C. Rose, City Attorney Miles K. Risley, and City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta.

Present 8 - Council Member Carolyn Vaughn, Council Member Lucy Rubio, Council Member Rudy Garza Jr., Council Member Michael Hunter, Council Member Greg Smith, Council Member Paulette Guajardo, Council Member Joe McComb, and Council Member Ben Molina

C. BRIEFINGS TO CITY COUNCIL:

1. City-County Health District and Desalination/Water Supply

Mayor Pro Tem Lucy Rubio referred to Item 1. City Manager Margie C. Rose presented information on the following topics regarding the City-County Health District: City Council's request, in May/June 2015, that the City Manager evaluate the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and County; concerns about the Public Health Director reporting to two entities; and that the evaluation has yielded the following options: Option 1 - No change, leave organization as is; Option 2 - Move everything to County; Option 3 - Move everything to City; Option 4 - Create an Administrative Health Board. City Manager Rose referenced the associated costs and pros and cons of each option.

City Manager Rose stated that Nueces County and City staff favor Option 1 and discussed additional funding and staffing to be provided by Nueces County.

City Manager Rose introduced the Desalination/Water Supply item and Assistant City Manager Mark Van Vleck, who introduced the presenter, Executive Director of Port Industries of Corpus Christi Bob Paulison. Mr. Paulison presented information on the following topics: industry requires a non-interruptible water supply, for which many are willing to pay a nominal premium; seawater desalination is a viable option; timing is critical; the importance of moving forward with planning activities so the project will be ready to go when the time is right; interest in seawater desalination in relation to prolonged periods of drought and increased economic activity; water rationing or curtailment; concern regarding the available water supply; diversifying and strengthening the region's water supply; the history of desalination study work; the study partners; guiding principles; scoping the study; that the original concept was industrial desalination; engineering/technical and implementation/financial study objectives; study organization; analysis and costing strategy; what the study determined; siting factors; configurations developed/assessed; water delivery; current concept; the Local Government Corporation concept; preliminary cost estimates based on preliminary data; cost allocation approach using blended cost; blended cost of water as a function of demand; next steps; and getting the project, "trigger ready".

Council members, staff and Mr. Paulison discussed the following topics: current and projected demand for water; alternative strategies to desalination and their costs; lead times for various strategies; treatment, transmission and raw water cost considerations; achieving non-curtailment; the number of desalination plants needed given different scenarios; the percentage that desalinated water is expected to be as compared to water from other sources; policy-level discussions regarding the Local Government Corporation concept; moving forward with the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) application; projected demand for water; supply versus demand considering re-use; that the SWIFT loan is deferred for 8 years at zero percent interest and no premium payment, unless a project comes online; who pays for the loan if the desalination plant is not built; the variable salinity study versus the desalination study; that a variable salinity pilot is required if the water is to be used for drinking water; the state's requirement to pilot technologies if desalinated water is connected to the City's potable water supply; that a pilot is not required if desalinated water is produced solely for industrial use; entities suggested to be part of the Local Government Corporation; looking at cost and availability of groundwater; and developing future non-surface supplies of water.

Port of Corpus Christi Authority (POCCA) Commissioner Richard Bowers, speaking for himself, stated that: the POCCA is willing to aid in the creation of additional water for our community, including committing money and engineering resources and the next step should be to permit a desalination plant.

City Manager Rose stated that the SWIFT application is due by the end of April 2017.

MOTION OF DIRECTION

Council Member Greg Smith made a motion of direction directing the City Manager to proceed with the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) funding application for seawater desalination, seconded by Council Member Michael Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION OF DIRECTION

Council Member Greg Smith made a motion of direction directing the City Manager to begin discussions, at the policy level, with the Port of Corpus Christi Authority and the San Patricio Municipal Water District for the feasibility of creating a Local Government Corporation for developing future non-surface water supplies, seconded by Council Member Vaughn and passed unanimously.

MOTION OF DIRECTION

Council Member Greg Smith made a motion of direction directing the City Manager to begin looking into providing non-curtailement water contract options to industry as expeditiously as possible, seconded by Council Member Joe McComb and passed unanimously.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.