

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF BRAZORIA

The City of Brazoria convened in Special Meeting on May 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. with the following to-witt:

BobbyJo Newell	Mayor
Gail Logsdon	Council Position #2
Gary Kersh	Mayor Pro-Tem
Roger Shugart	Council Position #4
Irv Eddy	Council Position #5

City Personnel Present:

Teresa Borders	City Manager
Sheila Williams	City Secretary
David Jordan	Public Works Director
Neal Longbotham	Police Chief
R. C. Stevenson	City Attorney

A. CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL MEETING.

Mayor Newell called to order special meeting at 6:30 p.m.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO AMERICAN AND STATE FLAG.

Mayor Newell asked for volunteer from audience to say the prayer. Bill Lott volunteered to say the prayer. Mayor Newell led all in the pledge to the American and State Flags.

C. CONSIDERATION/ACTION TO REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT MUNICIPAL LAWYER TO GIVE LEGAL ADVICE ON REMAINDER MONEY IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND.

City Attorney Stevenson gave each council person and Mayor a handout with the information from Bay City attorney. Motion was made by Roger Shugart to not hire another lawyer to look into the emergency management fund. A second was made by Gail Logsdon. Motion carried unanimously.

D. CONSIDERATION/ACTION TO DISCUSS RATES FOR GARBAGE.

City Manager Teresa Borders explained the \$3.00 fee was taken away from the emergency management fund in October. The rates for garbage stayed the same. It is a \$6.45 mark up to use for streets. The access go's into general fund to help with street maintenance. Gail Logsdon asked if anything over what we are charged from Waste Connections goes into Maintenance and Street Repairs. City Manager Teresa Borders said yes. Roger Shugart asked if a separate account for streets could be added for the extra to go into. Teresa Borders said no it would need to be kept in general fund. Mayor Newell asked how much the mark up is. City Manager Teresa Borders said it was \$6.45. Mayor Newell asked if we were keeping that way. City Manager Borders said that is up to council. Gail Logsdon said she has not had one single person tell her "Oh my gosh why are you taking up \$3.00". If young people could see that just \$3.00 could build up so quickly. Roger Shugart said that is \$36.00 a year. Gail Logsdon said she thinks it is smart to

keep in budget and that is not a lot to ask. Irv Eddy said when they send a bill at end of month they bill us for all the homes. Then you have people that don't pay and the city still has to pay. Mayor Newell said she doesn't mind paying the rate but it is a fee added to the trash bill. It has been \$22. Something for a long time and that is a 40% mark up on it. All the cities around, the highest is Sweeny where they put into a specific account for road trash trucks. Irv Eddy said that FEMA takes forever to pay out for hurricane trash debris pick up and they don't pay back full amount. He thinks we would have to go get a loan to keep diseases away. He thinks it should stay as is. Gail Logsdon asked how many have had complaints about the \$3.00. Irv Eddy, Roger Shugart said they haven't. Gail Logsdon asked Mayor Newell if we could ask the audience. Mayor Newell asked if anyone in the audience had anything to say.

Kirby Jordan at 207 Second St. asked if the \$6.45 is going to be permanently allocated to streets and drainage or left up to city manager to what she wants to spend it for. City Manager Teresa Borders said it will be put in the budget and whatever the council tells her to do with it. Some will go for administration and the other on streets. Mr. Jordan asked if \$5.00 of it go for street and drainage and the other for administration. Mayor Newell said the old ordinance stated anything above the emergency management fund that existed was to go into street and drainage. That is what started this whole thing of me asking. She said I did have a couple come to her and ask about this fee and what it was being used for. I went and researched the ordinances and found it under heavy trash pickup. I don't see a problem of leaving \$200,000 for heavy trash pickup for hurricane.

David Howard at 235 Camelia said he does not have a problem with the \$6.45. I have a problem with how it was done and put on our bill without us knowing about it. I want it taken off my bill and refunded for all the years that we have not known about it. Roger Shugart said it was done in open council and not hidden.

Peggy Taylor at 229 Yaupon would like to know why it was not itemized on her bill. Why not any transparency. I don't want to hear there is no room for it. Our bills are outdated and need to be updated. I know we have the money in the budget to have someone come in and do it. I hate the idea of no transparency. We have a Facebook and website and nobody posts on them and nothing out to the public. I was sick and couldn't make last meeting. I can't go to our website or Facebook and find out anything. Everything is hidden down here. Mr. Eddy every time it rains my house floods and no one comes and helps me. She feels like she has been cheated and she wants a line item on her bill. Mayor Newell said we have the most expensive trash rates. She has called all around to other cities.

Stephanie Cribbs of 301 W. Marion said she wants to make sure its legal to continue with the rate. She doesn't want anyone coming in and bam and then we get fined. I just want to make sure we are doing it the right way. I have no problem paying the bill. Gary Kersh asked if it was going to be street and drainage or just street. Teresa Borders said whatever the council decides. Mayor Newell said there was a sidewalk fee that Sweeny had to remove because citizens came and said they didn't want to pay for sidewalks. We have to make sure the way we are doing it is correct. Stephanie Cribbs said you have to fix the sewer and drainage before you can fix the roads.

Bill Lott at 310 Red Oak doesn't have a problem with the money. He asked Teresa Borders if the money would go into general fund. However much money is in there can go into a special account for street and drainage. Mr. Stevenson said you would have create an account in your

budget. Gary Kersh said it is basically the same thing as emergency fund. I would like to see it in there when auditor comes in. For transparency reasons that is what I would like to see. Mayor Newell said there is a percentage that can be transferred form a utility account.

Karla Nugent at 205 Ave D said her street is a flood zone. Where has all this money gone that has been collected? Why isn't more of it gone to streets and drainage? Teresa Borders said it was set up originally for trash debris removal. It was put in an emergency fund and used for debris removal and sewer cave-ins and purchase a backhoe. Ms. Nugent said she has no problem with the fee if it is going for streets and drainage. Ms. Nugent asked about an itemized bill showing what the money was spent on. Teresa Borders said if you will come by tomorrow she will give you one. There is \$410,000 still in the account.

Stephanie Cribbs has a copy of the ordinance and in her opinion the citizens in Brazoria should be charged less than the people outside the city limits. David Jordan said there is about 25 customers outside city limits. Gail Logsdon asked if they are not obligated to use our garbage when on outside city limits. David Jordan said no they are not obligated. Gail Logsdon said ordinance came into place in 2002. I think it is the first year I came aware of it and I was excited about the storm and I think it was a good thing. I don't want to come to council meetings and be hollered at. Gary Kersh said if we need to put it on the bills then change them.

Mayor Newell said you can't make so much off the utility bills. Gary Kersh said you can't take out of general fund and it has to come out of the cost to fix road. Gail Logsdon said you need to get the drainage fixed first before you fix the streets that has been told many times.

Mayor Newell said she doesn't mind paying the \$6.45 but she wants it designated to streets.

Ruby Jordan of 207 Second St. wants to thank everyone for letting the citizens speak. It is eye opening and she thinks council needs to hear how the citizens feel.

Peggy Taylor of 229 Yaupon wants to know why we can't start with a 5 year plan and start with the older parts. Gary Kersh said we do have a plan and it starts with Magnolia Gardens and Garden Acres.

Stephanie Cribbs of 301 W. Marion did math of 25 customers come out to be an average of \$23.00 a bill and totals \$6,900 annually. By increasing citizens outside the city limits it is not a lot but \$5.00 is \$5.00. To get the city back on track every \$ helps. It will give our citizens a little bit of a break.

E. ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING.

Mayor Newell adjourned Special Meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor BobbyJo Newell

ATTEST:

Sheila Williams, City Secretary