

**TOWN OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 4, 2004**

**I CALL TO ORDER**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of South Padre Island, Texas was held August 4, 2004 at the Club Padre, 5800 Padre Boulevard. Mayor Robert N. Pinkerton Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present: Aldermen Rick Ridolfi, Fred Mallet and Kirk Mills. Aldermen Rick Wells and James "Joe Buck Camp" had excused absences (item VI c.)

Staff members present were Commander Javier Garza, Chuck Zebrowski, Sylvia Mata, Martha McClain, Darla Honea, Mary K. Pollard, Jay Mitchim, Bernice Perez, Ray Moya, Clifford Rowell, Paul Cunningham, and Joyce Adams. City Manager Dewey Cashwell arrived later, due to his appearance on a live TV broadcast.

**II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jeff George, President of Sea Turtle Inc., stated that tickets were still available for the Sea Turtle Awards Banquet.

Ms. Jill Francisco, fiancée of former Public Works Director Jeffrey Gilbert, read a letter clarifying why Mr. Gilbert had resigned his position.

**IV PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mayor Pinkerton presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Glenn McGehee, former Mayor of South Padre Island (1978-1982) and a member of the Town's Beach and Dune Task Force, saying thank you and commending him for his services to the Town.

Mayor Pinkerton also had a Certificate of Appreciation for Mr. Rodney Moore, former member of the Beach and Dune Task Force, who was not present to receive it.

**V COMMITTEE REPORTS**

In addition to the written committee reports that were submitted with the agenda packages, some discussion was held regarding the timing for the installation of the Town banners and also, some of the upcoming Convention Centre events.

Alderman Ridolfi, Chairman of the Development Plan Review Board, stated the committee had been working very hard on some very important issues.

**VI APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Ridolfi made a motion, seconded by Mills, to approve the Consent Agenda. Alderman Mallett had a question regarding one of the invoices. Motion carried unanimously. Items approved are as follow:

- Approve minutes: July 15, 2004 Special Meeting, July 21, 2004 Regular Meeting, July 27, 2004 Workshop and June 24 and 25, 2004 Special Meetings.
- Approve excused absences for Aldermen Rick Wells and James "Joe Buck" Camp from the Regular Meeting of August 4, 2004.
- Approve invoices for payment. Invoices were paid by General Fund checks numbered 071899 through 071900, 071904 through 071908

and 071912 through 071996, 071988 through 072918 and 072929 through 072067, (071901 through 071903 and 071909 through 071911 were voided), for a total of \$239,088.47.

**VII DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED CONTRACT WITH HILLCO PARTNERS' SERVICES FOR AUGUST 15, 2004 THROUGH AUGUST 14, 2006 (CASHWELL)**

City Manager Dewey Cashwell stated that the HillCo contract was in the same amount and included the same services as last year's contract. He said the details of percentages to be paid to HillCo by the Town and the EDC, still were a work in progress. He and Mayor Pinkerton described the services that HillCo provided to the Town, including annexation and the information regarding 4A and 4B Economic Development Corporations. Mr. Cunningham added that several acts would have to be amended if the Town goes to a Home Rule entity.

Mr. Cashwell recommended approval of the two-year contract with HillCo, stating that either party could nullify the contract, with a thirty day notification given.

Discussion was held regarding the projects to be addressed and the charges for HillCo services.

Ridolfi made a motion, seconded by Mills, to approve the proposed contract with HillCo Partners for the period of August 15, 2004 through August 14, 2006, for the amount of \$12,000 per month. Motion carried 2-1, with Mallet casting the nay vote.

**VIII DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED CONTRACT WITH CAMERON COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR FOR TAX COLLECTION SERVICES (HONEA)**

Discussion was held. Alderman Ridolfi asked that the PIISD be given the opportunity to present a proposal for their services, also. Ridolfi made a motion to table this until next meeting, with a second by Mills. Motion carried unanimously.

**IX DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 776, AMENDING THE FY 2003/04 BUDGET (HONEA)**

Finance Director Darla Honea reviewed Resolution No. 776, and the backup materials that had been provided for the budget amendments.

Discussion was held.

Mallet made a motion, seconded by Ridolfi, to approve Resolution No. 776, amending the FY 2003/04 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

A true and correct copy of said resolution was placed in the Town's Resolution Book, entitled Resolution No. 776, and by reference hereto, included in these minutes as if fully set out and spread upon the pages of the Minutes Book.

**X DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED FY 2004/05 TAX RATE (HONEA)**

Mr. Cashwell proposed reducing the tax rate by one and one-half cents. He explained the budget could still provide for the Compensation Plan, and suggested that the sacrifices for the be the employee merit increases for one year and the elimination of the three proposed new positions, i.e., the second Code Enforcement Officer and two maintenance positions. This proposal would result in a proposed tax rate of .24311.

It was explained that the (approved) proposed tax rate could still be lowered, (but not increased) if the Board of Aldermen so desired, at their meeting to adopt a tax rate, scheduled for August 25, 2004.

Lengthy discussion was held.

Mills made a motion, seconded by Mallet to approve a .24311 proposed tax rate. Discussion was held. Ridolfi called the question. A Record Vote was taken, with aye votes cast by Mayor Pinkerton, Alderman Rick Ridolfi, Alderman Fred Mallet and Alderman Kirk Mills. There were no nay votes. The motion carried unanimously.

**XI DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCUSSION OF TAX RATE (HONEA)**

Mallett made a motion, seconded by Mills, to schedule a Public Hearing for Discussion of the Tax Rate on August 18, 2004, at 5:30 p.m., at the Convention Centre. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON REPORT ON PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT E-MAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM TO CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY (RIDOLFI)**

City Manager Cashwell reported the following, regarding the e-mail Communications:

"We will place an ad in the local newspapers encouraging people to send us their e-mail addresses. We will also post this ad on our web-site prominently.

We will make use of the existing e-mail lists we have and send the same message to all these people.

We will also provide necessary legal language to acknowledge that we will not sell our lists, but that the lists will become public information under the Open Records Act."

Mr. Cashwell thanked the PIO, Martha McClain, and the IT, Chuck Zebrowski, for their progress on the project, and Alderman Fred Mallet for his input. Alderman Mallet commended the staff.

Mr. Cashwell also thanked Alderman Ridolfi for instigating the project, who then stated he was satisfied with the progress.

**XIII DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE WAVE'S FALL (TRANSPORTATION) SCHEDULE (BALL)**

Ms. Ball's proposed fall schedule for the WAVE was the exactly same as last year's, and it was approved by the Board of Aldermen, with no formal action taken.

**XIV DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE BEACH AND DUNE TASK FORCE**

Ridolfi made a motion to table the item until after it was advertised. Motion died for lack of a second. Discussion was held. Mallett made a motion, seconded by Mills, to appoint Nancy Marsden to the Beach and Dune Task Force. Motion carried 2-1, with Ridolfi casting the nay vote.

**XV DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, ORDINANCE NO. 04-14, PROVIDING FOR A MECHANISM TO ZONE PROPERTY ANNEXED INTO THE TOWN OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (BALL)**

Ridolfi made a motion, seconded by Mallett, to approve Ordinance No. 04-14 on second and final reading. Motion carried unanimously.

A true and correct copy of said ordinance was placed in the Town's Ordinance Book, entitled Ordinance No. 04-14, and by reference hereto, included in these minutes as if fully set out and spread upon the pages of the Minutes Book.

**XVI DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, ORDINANCE NO. 04-15, AMENDING CHAPTER 20, SECTIONS 20-8C AND 20-8D OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CODE OF ORDINANCES TO SPECIAL RESIDENTIAL SETBACK REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE "C" ZONING DISTRICT (BALL)**

Ridolfi made a motion, seconded by Mills, to approve Ordinance No. 04-15, on second and final reading. Motion carried 2-1, with Mallett casting the nay vote.

A true and correct copy of said ordinance was placed in the Town's Ordinance Book, entitled Ordinance No. 04-15, and by reference hereto, included in these minutes as if fully set out and spread upon the pages of the Minutes Book.

#### XVII DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET (CASHWELL)

Discussion was held regarding the proposed budget for FY 2004-05. Comments included:

- The increase in the Administration personnel costs were due to the addition of one person to Administration, mid-year 2004.
- A new generator was needed, one that would be plugged into four buildings, rather than just one; grant money might be available.
- A request to add sidewalks, curbs and gutters to the budget; (Mr. Cashwell then explained that the best way to achieve this type of project would be to hold a bond issue.)
- A request that the Board of Aldermen look carefully at the contribution of tax payer's money to entities outside our town; example the Laguna Madre Boys and Girls Club.
- The reason the IT budget was so much bigger this year is that all the Town's needs had been incorporated into one budget, instead of each of the individual departments.
- A positive response was heard regarding the IT budget, a citizen saying that it was "entirely reasonable".
- The problem the Town has recruiting employees is that we're not competitive in the market place.
- Another Code Enforcement officer is needed for increased safety, i.e., to provide for more frequent inspections of restaurants.

Mr. Cashwell thoroughly explained the reasons for all increases.

Mr. Bill Richardson asked that the Board of Aldermen hold another budget workshop to get more public input. After discussion, the Board decided to hold another Budget workshop on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

#### XVIII DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 777, AMENDING SECTION 2 OF RESOLUTION NO. 775, TO PROVIDE FOR A NON-VOTING CHAIRMAN TO BE APPOINTED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, EFFECTIVE UPON ITS PASSAGE AND APPROVAL (PINKERTON)

Discussion was held. Mills made a motion to table this item, seconded by Mallett. Motion carried unanimously.

#### XIX ADJOURN

Mayor Pinkerton adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
Robert N. Pinkerton Jr., Mayor

  
Joyce Adams, City Secretary

