

MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING

May 9, 2016

The City Commission met this date in regular session in the Commission Chambers. The Invocation was given by Commissioner Wasdin. The Mayor then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with the following in attendance.

Mayor	:	John B. Arnold, Jr.
Commissioners	:	Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
	:	Christine Wasdin
	:	Clark (Tom) Browning, Jr.
	:	Kay Hamilton
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
City Administrator	:	Carl Scott
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
Fire Chief	:	Mark Norris
City Engineer	:	Roy Petrey
City Attorney	:	Hayward Dykes
Public Work Director	:	Nathan Kelley
Library Director	:	David Weatherford
Recorder	:	Amber Elledge

Others in attendance: (Not inclusive) Amber Elledge (camera), Marion Cassell, Joe Cobb, Anson Holyfield, Robert Huntzinger, Joe Morgan, Matt Zinke (GCT Engineering), Marcia Sanders (Reporter with the Bay Beacon)

Mayor Arnold welcomed the audience and stated that the Commission was interested in hearing their thoughts and welcomed any comments. Mayor Arnold then asked that anyone wanting to make any comments should raise his/her right hand to be recognized and use the microphone at the podium to address the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 4, 2016 MEETING WITH A TYPO CORRECTION ON PAGE 3, line 28. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.
2. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 11, 2016 MEETING WITH A TYPO CORRECTION ON PAGE 7, LINE 14-15. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.
3. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 18, 2016 MEETING. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.

**4. CITIZENS' CONCERNS (non-agenda items) Resident**

Mr. Huntzinger, 344 Lincoln Ave, inquired as to why he had been approached by a city police officer regarding his new boat being parked along the side of Adams Ave. He said a violation of an ordinance was cited for the visit. Mr. Huntzinger said his previous boat had been parked in the same place for four years and no one had ever approached him about it. Mr. Scott advised the citizen that we do not allow boats in the right of way, period. He offered to get Mr. Huntzinger the specific right of way measurement by feet.

Mrs. Cassell, 173 Highland St, mentioned the Budget Inn and its "hole in the roof". She said it appeared that nothing has been fixed on the property since the last time she mentioned the structure.

**1. CITIZENS' CONCERNS (Non-Agenda Items) Non-Resident**

There were no non-resident comments.

**1. ACTION ITEMS – Added Agenda Items**

Comm. Hamilton asked to have a Library heading added within the Reports/Correspondence/Announcements section of meeting agendas.

**2. ACTION ITEMS – Development Order Jasmine North Subdivision**

Mr. Scott explained that this is a new development off of Jasmine Ave. that is being developed by Pat Byrne. He said the engineers for this project submitted their civil plans and have complied with all requirements so it is ready to go. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO ISSUE THE DEVELOPMENT ORDER. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.

Minutes

Citizens'  
Concerns  
Resident

Citizens'  
Concerns Non-  
Resident

Added  
Agenda Items

Development  
Order  
Jasmine North

Comm. Hamilton asked what is happening with Carondolet Phase II project she thought it would have been ahead of this project. Engineer Petrey said they are still working on their drawings.

**3. ACTION ITEMS – City Audit**

City  
Audit

Mayor Arnold stated there had been a glitch in getting all the necessary information from the state, to complete the audit. Mrs. Johnson advised that the audit information should be available for review by the commissioners sometime this week.

**4. ACTION ITEMS – Etc.**

Etc.

There were no additional action items.

**1. OLD BUSINESS – Ordinance No. 671 Business Property Tax Exemption**

Ordinance  
No. 671  
Business  
Property  
Tax  
Exempt

Mayor Arnold said the purpose for this item is the second and final reading for the ordinance. Mayor Arnold read the ad for this Ordinance from the notice of the public hearing which appeared in the Daily News on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Morgan asked the commission to withhold approving the ordinance as it stands, in order to tweak its verbiage before passing. He said that he wanted to see a little more leverage in terms of the number of employees (10) necessary to attract businesses eligible for the tax break. He also said he would like to see some particular types of business mentioned within the ordinance. Attorney Dykes advised that, statutorily, a new business is defined by state law as ten or more employees. He said any deviation from this number would be conflicting to state law. Mr. Dykes then said that he could not definitively confirm that a lower number of employees would not be allowed.

COMM. BROWNING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 671, A BUSINESS TAX EXEMPTION ORDINANCE. COMM. STRONG SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.

**2. OLD BUSINESS – Dangerous Building Update**

Dangerous  
Building  
Update

Mr. Scott said that a developer had agreed to purchase the structure at a price of \$30,500. He said the closing would have to be done by June 6, 2016 and the city would have had to wait until the second Monday in June to knock the structure down anyway. Mr. Scott said if they do not take immediate action to remediate the property by June 30<sup>th</sup>, the city would knock it down via approval at the July City Commission anyway.

**3. OLD BUSINESS – Etc.**

No other old business.

**1. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – TPO/DOT**

Etc.

Comm. Wasdin said she had nothing to report.

**2. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Stormwater**

TPO/  
DOT

Mr. Scott said there had not been any calls on storm water recently.

**3. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Legal Activities**

Storm-  
Water

Attorney Dykes advised that the final order came in regarding the North Bayshore litigation. He said Attorney Bowman requested an Executive Session meeting this Wednesday to discuss some of the wording with the Commission. Comm. Browning stated he would not be able to attend due to a prior engagement, but the rest of the commissioners said they could attend.

Legal  
Activities

**4. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Community Liaison Report**

Comm.  
Liaison  
Report

Comm. Wasdin said the Chamber of Commerce is initiating a civic leader hall of fame program and would like nominations by June 10, 2016. She said anyone with a nomination should contact the chamber. Comm. Wasdin then reminded of the Northwest Fest coming up on May 12, 2016. She also mentioned the impending hurricane season and encouraged citizens to do some research and get ready for the season.

**5. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Construction Activity**

Construc-  
tion  
Activity

Mr. Scott said we are going strong with construction activity.

**6. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Schedule Executive Session**

Executive  
Session

Mayor Arnold reminded the Executive Session had just been scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 6 PM.

**7. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Disbursements**

Disburse-  
ments

Mayor Arnold said everyone should have disbursements.

**8. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Etc.**

Etc.

Comm. Hamilton invited Library Director Weatherford to speak. He stated that he had just sent out 1,200 invitations for children to join the summer reading program. He directed everyone's attention to the library website's free tutoring link. He said from 2

PM to 7 PM the library offers free, online, private tutoring. Comm. Hamilton clarified that this help is not limited to children but is for all ages.

Mayor Arnold said the major upgrades at Doolittle Park have been completed thanks to Mr. Scott's time and talent. He said the city is working hard on the Fourth of July festivities, to include a duathlon, fun run, and paddle boarding.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Adjourn

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John B. Arnold, Jr.  
Mayor

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Clark (Tom) Browning,  
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

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Tammy Johnson, CMC  
City Clerk

\*\*\*The DVD labeled May 9, 2016 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.\*\*\*