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- Government Meetings and Politics

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Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, May 17, 2010

New Day at Galveston City Hall – Jaworski Takes Gavel *Four New Members Take Seats – Three Seats Still to be Decided in Runoffs*

A new majority of city council members took their seats at Galveston City Hall last week.

Lyda Ann Thomas, before turning the mayor's seat over to Joe Jaworski, made an emotional speech, noting the legacy that they both bring to Galveston City Hall.

"Whether they have streets named after them or not, both our families left us with traditions of servant-leadership and aspirations for our city and our region that propelled us to run for mayor in the first place," Thomas said. "I've had my turn and now it's yours."

Taking office with Jaworski were Dianna Puccetti, Steve Greenberg and Chris Gonzales.



The new city council appointed Linda Colbert as mayor pro tem, although Colbert is in a runoff with Angela Brown.

Tarris Woods is in a runoff with Rusty Legg and Elizabeth Beeton is in a runoff with Sheryl Rozier.

Photos of the last meeting of the old city council, the first meeting of the new city council, a reception at City Hall between the meetings and a surprise party for the outgoing council members; as well as audio

excerpts from the meetings, are posted on GuidryNews.com.

A full recording of both meetings in **Streaming Video** will be posted on GuidryNews.com early this week.

Houston City Hall

Houston Mayor Annise Parker last week released her proposed \$4.12 billion Fiscal Year 2011 Budget.



"This budget continues my commitment to fiscal discipline," Parker said at a news conference. "It is a pay-as-you-go plan. I do not want to rely on debt to cover our everyday expenses."

Houston City Council Member Al Hoang said that he is pleased that Parker's proposed budget does not include a property tax increase, "even though the administration anticipates a decrease in property tax revenue" for this fiscal year.

Houston City Council voted to set a public hearing date of June 8 regarding the city budgets for the period between July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Friendswood City Council

Friendswood City Council last week voted unanimously to call for a

run-off election on June 5 to decide the City Council Position 6 seat.

Deirdre Carey Brown and Jeff Moser will compete for the seat. Incumbent Andy Rivera received the fewest votes during the May 8 election, and will not be in the running. Early voting for the election begins May 24.



Mitchell Historic Properties
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League City City Council

League City City Council last week voted unanimously to authorize an employment agreement with Marcus Jahns as the new city administrator.

Jahns, who has been serving as interim city administrator, will take the full-time position with an annual base salary of \$165,000, as well as a \$600 per month vehicle allowance and a \$100 monthly cellular phone allowance.

Jahns' position title will change to city manager, as voters approved an amendment to the City Charter on May 8 to change the city's form of government to a Council-Manager form of government.

The city council voted 6-1, with Jim Nelson opposed, to table a resolution in recognition of former city

administrator Chris Reed for subduing a suspect recently.

Dickinson City Council

Dickinson City Council last week voted unanimously to name Walter Wilson as mayor pro tem.

The city council voted unanimously to approve the results of the May 8 General Election. Galveston County Commissioner Stephen Holmes administered the oath of office to William King, III, and District Judge Lonnie Cox administered oaths of office for Mary Dunbaugh and Kerry Neves. King and Neves were unopposed for re-election to their positions, and Dunbaugh defeated challenger Dawn King for re-election to her seat on the city council.

La Marque City Council

La Marque City Council last week voted 3-2, with Mayor Geraldine Sam and Keith Bell opposed, to approve the final reading of an ordinance creating the office of Public Safety Director.

The ordinance was made effective retroactively to March 22, and appoints Police Chief Randall Aragon as Public Safety Director.

Tiki Island Aldermen

The Village of Tiki Island Board of Aldermen last week held a special meeting to administer oaths of office to newly elected and re-elected members of the board.



Oaths were administered to Ted Kennedy and Gwen Schulte, who were re-elected without opposition to a new term. Jim Anderson was also sworn in to replace outgoing Alderman Theo Blue, who has retired from his position.

Tiki Island Mayor Phillip Hopkins administered the oaths and presented

a proclamation to Blue and his wife Lynn.

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a contract with High Sendero, Inc. for the Summer Food Service Program, in the amount of \$3.24 per lunch served.

"The program, which is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture, provides free, nutritious, and well-balanced meals for any child up to 18 years of age," City Manager Kyle Hayes said.

Santa Fe City Council

Santa Fe City Council last week voted unanimously to reappoint Winnie Corsaro and Dorothy Bello to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

El Lago City Council

El Lago City Council last week voted 3-1, with Jeff Tave opposed, to approve \$175,000 in funding for the construction of a Splash Pad at the Swim and Racquet Club.

Seabrook City Council

Seabrook City Council last week voted unanimously to adopt an order canvassing the results of the May 8 Special Election.

Seabrook's ballot included a referendum to continue the city's Crime District, which passed by a vote of 244 in favor and 80 against, and 40 ballot propositions.

Shoreacres City Council

Shoreacres City Council last week voted unanimously to move forward within its budgeted funds for legal matters to meet with an attorney on admiralty and marine matters.

The city is seeking legal advice regarding noise and air pollution from container ships docked at the

Port of Houston's Bayport Container Terminal.

Nassau Bay City Council

Nassau Bay City Council last week voted unanimously to select Clark Condon Associates to provide professional services associated with the development of a master plan for the Nassau Bay Peninsula.

Funding for the master plan development will be considered at a future date. The item was approved with no funding attached.

Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted 7-1, with Pat Van Houte opposed, to approve the first reading of a \$696,098 contract with Rust, Ewing, Watt & Haney, Inc. for real and personal property insurance for the city.

La Porte City Council

La Porte City Council last week voted 5-4, with Chuck Engelken, Louis Rigby, Tommy Moser, John Zemanek and Daryl Leonard in favor and Michael Mosteit, John Black, Mike Clausen and Mayor Barry Beasley opposed, to approve a motion to direct the city staff to meet with the Economic Alliance Port Region to renegotiate a lease agreement for office space at city property.

The city council voted unanimously to amend the city's Code of Ordinances regarding the prohibition of sound nuisances to include areas outside of the city limits.

"Because of noise/vibration disturbances caused to residents of south La Porte by operations at the Port of Houston Authority Bayport Complex, the city has been asked by citizens to enforce applicable regulations under state law and city ordinances governing noise nuisances," City Attorney Clark Askins said.

Pearland City Council

Pearland City Council last week voted unanimously to award a \$3.082 million bid to Crossroads Industries, Inc. for construction services related to the Town Ditch Project.

Friendswood School Board

The Friendswood Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to postpone work to convert the district's current junior high to an early childhood center.

According to Superintendent Trish Hanks, costs for converting the campus into an early childhood center are more than anticipated by the district. Hanks recommended completing other projects for the school district before starting work on the junior high.

"By postponing this project for a period of time it will give administration an opportunity to visit with our community to determine our path forward in this area," Hanks said.

Texas City School Board

The Texas Independent School District Board of Trustees last week canvassed the votes of the May 8 Board of Trustees Election and unanimously approved the results for District 4.

A reception was held for outgoing Trustee Phil Roberts during the meeting.

However, newly elected board member Bryan Thompson will not officially take his seat on the board until June, allowing Roberts to complete the school year.

Hitchcock ISD School Board

The Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to allow the City of Hitchcock to demolish a portable building at the district's property and

to use the property as a parking lot for city vehicles during the day.

Galveston County Mayors

The Galveston County Mayors and Councilmembers Association met last week in Jamaica Beach, which was celebrating the 35th anniversary of the city's incorporation.

Jamaica Beach Mayor Vic Pierson acknowledged the presence of Galveston City Council members-elect Dianna Puccetti, Steve Greenberg and Chris Gonzales and noted that it was the first time in four years that a representative of Galveston has attended a meeting of the Galveston County Mayors and Councilmembers Association.

Houston ISD School Board

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education last week voted 7-1, with Manuel Rodriguez opposed, to authorize the administration to negotiate and execute contracts for the district's Job Order Contract Program for repair, rehabilitation, minor construction and alteration of facilities.

"This has been an interesting issue, this whole awarding of bids since I first arrived in the district," said Superintendent Terry Grier. "I have seen a procurement department made up of independent folks rate bids from a variety of different companies across the district to do a lot of different work; and then I've seen staff, for whatever reason, pull names off of a list and put other names back on a list, with no rhyme or reason except, quite frankly, influence, where influence has no business coming from."

La Marque ISD School Board

The La Marque Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted to re-elect Joe Cantu as board president, Travis Smith as vice president and Cynthia Bell-Malveaux as secretary.

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve a letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency requesting extension of the planning and technical support team from the FEMA ESF#14 Program for the Bolivar Blueprint Project.

The commissioners court presented a proclamation to Bruce Hughes who has retired from the position of Galveston County Purchasing Agent.

Harris County Court

Harris County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to seek and evaluate statements of interest and qualifications from consulting firms concerning further development of segments of the Grand Parkway in Harris County.

The commissioners court approved several resolutions, including one recognizing the 90th Anniversary of ExxonMobile. Commissioner Sylvia Garcia noted that today marks the actual anniversary of the day 90 years ago that the first oil was pumped from a well at the Baytown refinery. Joe Blommaert, plant manager in Baytown, accepted the proclamation.

Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to award a \$5.3 million bid to Cross Roads Industries, Inc. for the County Road 58 Mobility Project.

Jefferson County Court

The Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to issue an order banning burning in unincorporated areas of Jefferson County.

The commissioners court voted to award a \$1.015 million bid to Tom Mac for the replacement of the bridge at Humble Camp Road over Hillebrandt Bayou.

Galveston College Regents

The Board of Regents of the Galveston Community College District voted unanimously last week to resume renovations on the new Charlie Thomas Family Vocational-Technical Training Center site, formerly occupied by Sand Dollar Ford.

National Police Week

Law enforcement officers, their families and friends gathered at the Galveston County Police Officer's Memorial at the League City Sportsplex last week for a memorial service that was part of National Police Week.

"We're here to make sure that those heroes in our community, who have given their ultimate sacrifice for us, in most cases people they didn't even know," Yarbrough said. "We want to make sure that their spirit knows that they're not forgotten."

Brazoria County Transit

Connect Transit, in partnership with the cities of Angleton, Lake Jackson, Clute and Freeport, and other stakeholders, last week announced that it will offer bus service through the new Southern Brazoria County Transit Service beginning June 1, with routes throughout the region.

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Deaths

Lena C. Milligan (73) of Galveston, passed away Saturday, May 15, 2010, at UTMB Hospital.

Dorothy J. Perez (77) of Galveston, passed away Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at her residence.

T. Bertha Murray (83) passed away from this life to the loving arms of our Heavenly Father on May 4, 2010, at Mainland Medical Center in Texas City.

Mamie Cristelli (85) of Galveston, passed away Wednesday, April 5, 2010, at her residence.

Meetings and Events

Monday, May 17

10:00 **Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees Special Meeting**

1:30 **Jefferson County Commissioners Court**

5:00 **Galveston Housing Authority**

6:00 **Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees**

6:30 **Dickinson City Council Joint Meeting with Galveston County WCID No. 1**

6:30 **Bayou Vista City Council Special Meeting**

6:30 **Hitchcock City Commission**

6:45 **Kemah City Council Joint Meeting with Kemah Community Development Corporation**

7:00 **Kemah City Council**

7:30 **Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees**

Tuesday, May 18

8:30 **Port Arthur City Council**

10:00 **Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors**

1:30 **Houston City Council**

1:30 **Beaumont City Council**

6:00 **Webster City Council**

6:30 **Texas City Independent School District Board of Trustees**

7:00 **Clear Lake Shores City Council**

7:00 **Village of Tiki Island Board of Aldermen**

7:00 **Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees**

7:30 **Pasadena City Council**

Wednesday, May 19

9:00 **Houston City Council**

9:30 **Galveston County Commissioners Court**

4:00 **Galveston Intermodal Transportation Committee**

5:00 **Texas City City Commission**

6:30 **Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees**

7:30 **El Lago City Council**

7:30 **Taylor Lake Village City Council**

Thursday, May 20

7:30 a.m. **Houston Independent School District Board of Education Workshop**

7:30 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**

8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**

Friday, May 21

8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**

8:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**

Saturday, May 22

8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**

8:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**

Sunday, May 23

2:30 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**

3:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**

7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

About Guidry News Service

Guidry News Service is headquartered in Midtown Houston at 4001 Fannin, Suite 4432, Houston, Texas 77004; with offices in Downtown Beaumont and Downtown Galveston.

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