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- Government Meetings and Politics

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Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, June 21, 2010

H-GAC Rejects Contract for "Layoff Aversion Services" Members Opposed to Proposed \$400,000 Contract with Greater Houston Partnership

The Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors last week voted 21-5 to defeat a motion to negotiate a contract with the Greater Houston Partnership, for an amount not to exceed \$400,000, to provide "layoff aversion services" to at risk businesses in the region

"As a former small business owner, I can tell you that if I was looking at layoffs, calling H-GAC or the Greater Houston Partnership for help would be probably way down on my list," said Houston City Council Member Anne Clutterbuck.



"I think that this is an excellent program," said H-GAC President Kerry Neves. "If you look at the portfolio of services, we are talking about debt restructuring training, finance issues, even potential buyout, labor management issues, all those kinds of things that could go to help a business that is potentially in danger."

Photos and audio excerpts from the meeting are posted on GuidryNews.com.

Pelican Island Terminal

The Port of Galveston and the Port of Houston hosted a community

input meeting for the Pelican Island Container Terminal Conceptual Planning Study at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis last week.

Galveston Port Director Steve Cernak said the meeting is part of a process that will take at least ten years to complete, if Pelican Island is eventually selected as the site for a container terminal.

"If the site scores out - out of all the sites we are looking at - as the best, well, we will move forward with development," said Charlie Jenkins, director of planning and environment for the Port of Houston. "If it doesn't, then we will bide our time and it will eventually happen."

"How about protecting our tourism that Galveston has lived on all these many years?" asked Fred Bradford, who lives across the channel from Pelican Island. "That's not on your list."

"Sir, it is," Jenkins responded. "We want to hear your comments, that's why we are here."

Photos and interviews are posted on GuidryNews.com.

Galveston Runoff Election

Two incumbents won re-election in the June 19 Galveston City Council

Runoff Election, but the final outcome of two of the three races may be determined by an examination of 35 provisional ballots.

District 3 incumbent Elizabeth Beeton won her race with more than 56 percent of the vote, and her election is assured. However, District 2 incumbent Linda Colbert finished just four votes ahead of her challenger and District 1 incumbent Tarris Woods lost his election to Rusty Legg by just 10 votes.

La Marque City Council

La Marque City Council last week voted 3-1, with Mayor Geraldine Sam opposed, to approve termination of City Clerk Lydia Alcalá-García.

The city council voted 3-1, with Sam opposed, to approve the termination of Court Administrator Janet Solis.

Texas City City Commission

The Texas City City Commission last week voted unanimously to establish a temporary moratorium on permits for peddlers and solicitors in the city.

The ordinance was approved on first and final reading.

The moratorium will remain in place until an ordinance is approved, lifting the ban on permits for peddlers and solicitors.

Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted to approve an ordinance appropriating \$10.046 million from the Miscellaneous Capital Projects/Acquisitions and awarding a design and build contract to the Gilbane Building Company for construction of a new health department laboratory.

The contract will provide for the renovation of buildings located at the Veterans Affairs Hospital Campus to serve as new laboratories for the department.

"The Department of Health and Human Services laboratory is a principal reference laboratory for the Texas Medical Center," Interim Director of the General Services Department Forest Christy, Jr. said. "It is also one of 30 labs in the nation selected to perform bioterrorism testing in this region."

Port Arthur City Council

Port Arthur City Council last week voted unanimously to form a sub-committee to review industrial district agreements and tax abatement milestones set throughout the term of the agreements.

The city council voted unanimously to approve amendments to the 2010 budget which added a total of \$414,450 to the general fund budget, and added three positions.

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to approve contracts with High Sendero, Inc. of Beaumont and Arkel Besh of Baton Rouge, Louisiana to provide emergency catering services in the

event of a natural disaster or all-hazards disaster.

Tiki Island Aldermen

The Village of Tiki Island Board of Aldermen last week voted unanimously to support the creation of the Galveston County-Wide Urban-Rural Transit District and to appoint Alderman Ron Simons to represent Tiki Island on the district's board.

Clear Lake Shores Council

Clear Lake Shores City Council last week voted unanimously to increase the budget for the city's concert series by \$2,000.

The city council voted unanimously to approve resident rates for pool membership fees for Lazy Bend residents.

Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted 8-1, with Don Harrison opposed, to approve the first reading of an amendment to a contract with Civil Concepts Construction, LLC to establish a maximum guaranteed price of \$170,509 for renovations at Fire Station No. 7.

Seabrook City Council

Seabrook City Council last week voted unanimously to award a \$140,434 bid to Harris Construction Company, Ltd. for sanitary sewer improvements at the Lakeside Drive extension.

Webster City Council

Webster City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a memorandum of agreement with Johnson Space Center for emergency response.

Shoreacres City Council

Shoreacres City Council last week voted unanimously to appoint

Connie Ramirez to fill a vacant alderman position.

Ramirez will fill the unexpired term of Dolly Arons, who was elected as mayor on May 8. During the meeting, Ramirez took her oath of office for the position.

Nassau Bay City Council

Nassau Bay City Council last week voted unanimously to elect Mark Denman as mayor pro tem.

Mayor Don Matter, as well as city council members Brad Bailey and Bob Warters took their oaths of office. City Attorney Dick Gregg, Jr. administered the oaths of office.



Pearland City Council

Pearland City Council last week voted unanimously to authorize a lease agreement with the Pearland Economic Development Corporation for a portion of a city-owned building that will also be leased to the University of Houston for the university's Pearland campus.

The city is leasing space in the 30,659 square foot building, located at 1200 Pearland Parkway, to the University of Houston for a period of 20 years, after which the city will transfer ownership to the university. The Pearland EDC is leasing 3,281 square feet of the building as temporary office space.

Houston ISD School Board

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education last week saw the results of a "first-ever study of what happens to HISD students after they graduate from high school".

The study, based on data from the Class of 2005, shows that 52 percent went on to college and only 15 percent earned a college degree within four years. The national average is 23 percent.

"This district has made significant progress in recent years," said Superintendent Terry Grier. "But if we want to achieve our goal of making HISD the best school district in the country, we've got to do more."

Galveston ISD School Board

The Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to approve an agreement with Texas General Contractors, Inc. to act as contractor of record in the event of a disaster.

College of the Mainland

The College of the Mainland Board of Trustees, in a special meeting last week, voted 4-2, with Rosalie Kettler and Nick Stepchinski opposed, to reelect the board's current officers to their positions for another year.

Bonnie Matthews will remain board chair, with Ralph Holm as vice chair and Kettler as board secretary until May 2011.

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to award \$1,911,129 in contracts for several projects related to the Texas Cooperative Extension Services Office Building at Carbide Park.

Marty Baker and Jerry Mohn from Galveston's West End appeared before the commissioners court to note the accomplishments of Sidney McClendon, who was killed in a mishap last week.

Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted 3-1, with Everette "Bo" Alfred opposed, to award a \$6.68 million bid to Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, Ltd., for the third phase of the Jefferson County Courthouse Masonry and Window Restoration Project.

Houston METRO

Several transit riders and community representatives appeared before the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County last week to discuss issues related to bus and light rail service.

METRO Interim President George Greanias said that complaints and comments from the public are very helpful to him.

"This is management by exception down here," he said. "What I mean by that is, when something doesn't go right we need to hear about that. We appreciate people coming down here and telling us."

Galveston Transportation

The Galveston Intermodal Transportation Committee last week voted unanimously to include a downtown restroom in Phase Two of the Livable Communities Initiative.

John Carrara of The Goodman Corporation told the committee that George Mitchell's offer to purchase the Brown Family Trust parking lot at 25th and The Strand for the proposed Downtown Transportation Terminal will be considered by Galveston City Council after last Saturday's runoff election for three positions on the city council.

Battleship Texas

Texas Parks and Wildlife officials report that the Battleship Texas was found to be sinking in its mooring at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site over the previous weekend, but was saved by park employees using emergency pumps.

"This worrisome incident, which we fortunately succeeded in bringing under control, underscores the importance of moving forward rapidly with plans to place the Texas in a dry-berth," said Carter Smith,



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director. "I'm just glad our folks at the park showed a lot of resourcefulness in preventing the situation from getting out of hand."

Houston Livestock Show

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo recently awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to Texas 4-H members.

"One of the oldest Show scholarship programs, 1,974 scholarships have been awarded to Texas 4-H members since the Show's first major educational commitment in 1957," said a news release.

The Guidry News Gazette

The Guidry News Gazette is our print publication for people who prefer to hold a document in their hands rather than read off of a computer screen.

The newspaper, which is published on Mondays as a PDF document, provides a concise review of the past week's news and a preview of the next week's meetings, events and entertainment opportunities.

The Guidry News Gazette may be downloaded, printed and distributed with no additional permission required.

"We hope that you will share this free publication with your co-workers, customers and visitors," said Publisher Jim Guidry.

Information reported in the Guidry News Gazette is available in expanded form on GuidryNews.com, The Online News Station.

Deaths

Helen Marlene Ludgate (96) formerly of Galveston, passed away Saturday, June 19, 2010, at her residence in Dallas.

Rita Pevoteaux passed away Saturday, June 19, 2010, at Gulf Health Care Center in Galveston.

Lucia Garcia Escobedo (83) passed away on Thursday, June 17, 2010 in Pearland, Texas.

Teofilo B. Rabelas (79) of Galveston, passed away Thursday, June 17, 2010, at Bay Oaks Health Care Center in Texas City.

Eunice G. Haley (90) of Galveston, passed away Wednesday, June 16, 2010, at UTMB Hospital.

Mildred J. Thiberville (77) of Galveston, passed away Wednesday, June 16, 2010, at UTMB Hospital.

Willie Doris Cooper Petteway (82) of Galveston died Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at Bay Oaks Health Care Center in Texas City.

Mary Broussard Talbot (77) of Port Arthur passed away on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at Harbor Hospice in Beaumont.

Howard Johnson (75) passed away on Tuesday, June 15.

Johnny Anthony Botello (51) of Galveston died Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

Mary Suzanne Vlastelica Sullivan (94) died on June 15, 2010, in the Galveston home in which she had reared her family and in which she had lived for more than 63 years.

Infant Daughter Sweeney (new born) of Galveston died Sunday, June 13, 2010 at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

Sidney Smith McClendon III (81) died from a tragic accident on Saturday, the 12th of June 2010, in Houston, Texas.

Jimmie L. Little died on Friday, June 11, 2010 at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Sacramento, California.

Ollie B. Harrison (103) passed away on June 11, 2010, at Ashton Parke Care Center.

Meetings and Events

Monday, June 21

1:30 Jefferson County Commissioners Court
5:30 Groves City Council
6:00 Friendswood City Council

6:00 Jamaica Beach City Council

6:00 Shoreacres City Council Workshop

6:30 Hitchcock City Commission

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

7:00 Kemah City Council

7:00 Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees

7:00 Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees

Tuesday, June 22

9:00 Brazoria County Commissioners Court

9:00 Harris County Commissioners Court

10:00 Pasadena City Council

1:30 Houston City Council

1:30 Beaumont City Council

6:00 League City City Council

6:00 Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees

7:00 Dickinson City Council

7:30 Boeing-Boeing, Alley Theatre

7:30 Galveston Beach Band

Concert, Sealy Pavilion

Wednesday, June 23

9:00 Houston City Council

9:30 Galveston County Commissioners Court

7:30 El Lago City Council

7:30 Boeing-Boeing, Alley Theatre

7:30 Five Guys Named Moe

(Preview)

Thursday, June 24

4:00 Galveston City Council

TBA Houston Independent School District Board of Education Budget Hearing

7:00 Santa Fe City Council

7:30 Boeing-Boeing, Alley Theatre

7:30 Five Guys Named Moe

7:30 Tomfoolery: The Words and Music of Tom Lehrer, Main Street Theater - Chelsea Market

Friday, June 25

9:30 Houston-Galveston Area

Council Transportation Policy Council

8:00 Boeing-Boeing, Alley Theatre

8:00 Five Guys Named Moe

8:00 Tomfoolery: The Words and Music of Tom Lehrer, Main Street Theater - Chelsea Market

8:00 A Year with Frog and Toad, Stagedoor Inc.

Saturday, June 26

2:00 Five Guys Named Moe

2:30 Boeing-Boeing, Alley Theatre

8:00 Boeing-Boeing, Alley Theatre

8:00 Five Guys Named Moe

8:00 Tomfoolery: The Words and Music of Tom Lehrer, Main Street Theater - Chelsea Market

8:00 A Year with Frog and Toad, Stagedoor Inc.

Sunday, June 27

2:30 Boeing-Boeing, Alley Theatre

3:00 Five Guys Named Moe

3:00 Tomfoolery: The Words and Music of Tom Lehrer, Main Street Theater - Chelsea Market

3:00 A Year with Frog and Toad, Stagedoor Inc.

7:30 Boeing-Boeing, 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.

Call (409) 763-NEWS (6397) or email News@GuidryNews.com

Jim and Lynda Guidry are publishers of Gulf Coast E-news; GuidryNews.com, The Online News Station; and the Guidry News Gazette.

Garrett Bryce is managing editor.

Carl Guidry covers events in Jefferson County.

Jim Richardson and Jim Cook are Washington, D.C. correspondents.

Robert John Mihovil and Juan Peña are special correspondents.

Jason Adriance is webmaster.

