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- Government Meetings and Politics

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Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, June 28, 2010

Losing Candidate Dominates Galveston City Council *Defeated Council Member Tarris Woods Remains in Office Pending Recount*

City Attorney Susie Green said that Tarris Woods, who lost the recent runoff election to Rusty Legg, would remain in office until his recount is decided and any other challenge. Other members of the city council then allowed Woods to dominate last week's meeting.

On Wood's motion, the city council voted 6-1, with Elizabeth Beeton opposed, to appoint Council Member Dianna Puccetti as the city council's ex-officio representative on the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves, despite a request by Rusty Legg, who won the election and will likely join the city council at its next meeting, to wait until then to make ex-officio appointments.

Legg has expressed interest in the wharves board appointment.

Among Beeton's objections is the fact that Woods was voting for someone other than his opponent in the challenged election.

Mayor Joe Jaworski said Woods could abstain from the vote if he wished; but Woods not only voted, he made most of the motions for other appointments for ex-officio positions; and voted against Beeton's appointment to three boards.

Audio excerpts and photos of the city's streaming video of the meeting are posted on GuidryNews.com.

Houston City Council

Houston City Council, in a seven-hour meeting last week, voted to approve the city's \$4.1 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2011.

The city council voted to approve an amendment to the city's agreement with the Greater Houston Partnership to provide an additional \$221,250 for an extension of the current agreement.

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a \$198,172 contract with Centerline Construction Services, Inc. for renovations to the Beaumont Civic Center kitchen.

Centerline Construction Services was the second lowest bidder on the project. McInnis Construction had submitted the lowest bid, \$160,088. However, city administration recommended Centerline Construction Services.

Mitchell Historic Properties
(409) 763-5806
www.mitchellhistoricproperties.com
Offering retail, office space in historic downtown Galveston

League City City Council

League City City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first and final reading of an

ordinance creating a Safelight Program Fund.

City Manager Marcus Jahns announced new organizational changes.

"Key to the new structure is the establishment of three assistant city manager positions focusing on public works, public safety and management services," Jahns said. "These are to be occupied by Rich Oller, Mike Jez and Mike Loftin respectively, each of whom will take on additional management responsibility."

Dickinson City Council

Dickinson City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to affirm the city's membership in the Galveston County-Wide Urban-Rural Transit District.

Friendswood City Council

Friendswood City Council last week voted 5-1, with Deirdre Brown opposed, to approve a contract with Garner Environmental Services, Inc. to provide generators and other emergency response equipment to the city in the event of a disaster or emergency situation in 2010.

Hitchcock City Commission

The Hitchcock City Commission last week voted unanimously to

approve the final reading of an ordinance amending the city's regulations for video gaming devices.

The amendments affect gaming establishments that operate devices known as 8-liners, a style of slot machine. The ordinance includes a \$2,000 business license fee for each gaming establishment, and a \$200 per machine fee for operation of the devices. Operators must also perform background checks on all employees. The city will perform the background checks for a \$100 fee.

Jamaica Beach City Council

Jamaica Beach City Council last week voted unanimously to renew a contract with AmeriWaste for solid waste collection services.

Kemah City Council

Kemah City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a resolution expressing support of the Constellation Program at NASA.

El Lago City Council

El Lago City Council last week voted unanimously to allocate \$50,000 to fund the construction of shade structures around the Water Spray Pad at the El Lago Swim and Racquet Club.

Pasadena City Council

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

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve a resolution to create a Chapter 458 Urban-Rural Transit District, and another resolution to

officially join the new Galveston County Rural Transit District and to name County Judge Jim Yarbrough as the county's representative on the governing body for the district.

Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to award a \$1.87 million contract with Millenium Products, Inc. for the purchase and installation of nine generators for the county.

The commissioners court voted to receive and file bids submitted for the restoration of the Walter Umphrey State Park Pier. The commissioners court will consider award of a bid for the project at a future date.

Harris County/Houston City

Harris County Commissioners Court and Houston City Council, meeting in joint session last week, voted unanimously to reappoint James T. Edmonds as chair of the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority.



"I'm glad to see Jim Edmonds reappointed for another term as chairman of the Port of Houston Authority," said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. "It's in times of economic uncertainty like these that Jim's foresight and calm, steady guidance are most needed. All of us in Harris County benefit from Jim's experience and wisdom."

The Commissioners Court voted unanimously to approve \$63.5 million in capital improvements for 23 projects in the county.

Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to apply for assistance from the Texas General Land Office in cleaning and maintaining public beaches for fiscal year 2011.

H-GAC TPC

The Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Policy Council last week voted unanimous approval of the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Plan.

Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership President Coletta Castleschouldt and Seabrook Mayor Gary Renola



complained that the plan does not include FM 146 improvements.

Houston ISD School Board

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education last week voted 7-0 to approve the district's 2010-11 budget; and also voted unanimously to make HISD's Empowerment College Preparatory High School an Early College High School in the south part of Houston.

Santa Fe ISD School Board

The Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to select PBK Architects as the architectural firm for the High School Auditorium Project.

Dickinson ISD School Board

The Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees on Monday voted unanimously to uphold the hearing officer's recommendation regarding a grievance by a former employee.

Texas Windstorm Insurance

The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association Board of Directors, meeting in Galveston last week, voted 5-3, with Chair Garry Kaufman, Robert Shepard and Georgia Neblett opposed, to file a five percent windstorm insurance rate increase with the Texas Insurance Commission in August.

Port of Galveston

The Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves, in a special meeting last week, voted unanimously to approve a request by the Carnival Corporation for the port to construct terminal improvements to support cruise operations.

Carnival Cruise Lines announced that it will homeport its new vessel, the Carnival Magic, in Galveston. The cruise line will also transfer the Carnival Triumph from New Orleans to Galveston.

"To be selected as homeport for this new 'Dream Class' ship and the repositioning of the Carnival Triumph clearly speaks to the relationship the Port of Galveston has developed with Carnival Cruise Lines and demonstrates strong confidence in the Texas travel market," Port Director Steven Cernak said.

BAHEP Hosts PHA CEO

Port of Houston Authority Chief Executive Officer Alec Dreyer was the featured speaker at a membership meeting of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership at Lakewood Yacht Club last week.

"We are a state-mandated authority and job one for us is economic development," Dreyer said. "That's what we are all about. We are about growing the Port of Houston and growing the commerce and business activities that are undertaken in the Port of Houston."

GHP Reception for METRO

The Greater Houston Partnership hosted a reception last week for the Board of Directors and staff of the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority.

O'Quinn Estuary

The John M. O'Quinn Interstate 45 Scenic Estuarial Corridor was officially dedicated in the O'Quinn

Pavillion (old spelling) near Bayou Vista last week.

Scenic Galveston founder Evangeline Whorton explained the part that the late Houston attorney John O'Quinn played in the success of the marshland restoration project.

Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough was the featured speaker at the event.

Deaths

Carmen Villarreal Orta (69) a native Houstonian, passed away Wednesday, June 23, 2010.

Isabel Torres Perez (92) of La Marque, passed away Tuesday, June 22, 2010, at Clear Lake Regional Medical Center.

John H. Richard, Sr. (72) of Taylor Landing, died Monday, June 21, 2010 at Harbor Hospice in Beaumont.

Alberta Marie (Plain) Siller (76) lifelong resident of Galveston, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 21, 2010 in her home with her family by her side after a long struggle with cancer.

Arnulfo Rabago, Sr. (102) passed away on Father's Day, Sunday, June 20, 2010 with family by his side at Gulf Health Care Center in Galveston, Texas.

Glen Dale Smith (73) of Spring, Texas and former resident of Port Arthur passed away at Harbor Hospice in Beaumont on Saturday, June 19, 2010.

Meetings and Events

Monday, June 28

- 8:00 **Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves Finance Committee**
 - 9:00 **Galveston Port Facilities Corporation**
 - 9:10 **Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves**
 - 10:00 **Port of Beaumont Board of Commissioners**
 - 12:30 **College of the Mainland Board of Trustees Special Meeting**
 - 1:30 **College of the Mainland Board of Trustees**
 - 1:30 **Jefferson County Commissioners Court**
 - 6:00 **La Porte City Council**
 - 6:30 **Pearland City Council Workshop**
 - 7:00 **Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees**
 - 7:00 **Shoreacres City Council**
 - 7:30 **Pearland City Council**
- Tuesday, June 29**
- 8:00 **Port of Houston Authority**

- 9:30 **Board of Pilot Commissioners of Harris County Ports**
- 1:30 **Beaumont City Council**
- 1:30 **Houston City Council**
- 5:30 **Port Arthur City Council**
- 7:00 **Dickinson City Council Special Meeting**
- 7:30 **Pasadena City Council**
- 7:30 **Galveston Beach Band Concert, Sealy Pavilion**

Wednesday, June 30

- 9:00 **Houston City Council**
- 9:30 **Galveston County Commissioners Court**
- 5:30 **Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees**
- 8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

Thursday, July 1

- 2:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**
- 8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

Friday, July 2

- 8:00 **A Year with Frog and Toad, Stagedoor Inc.**
- 8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

Saturday, July 3

- 2:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**
- 8:00 **A Year with Frog and Toad, Stagedoor Inc.**
- 8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

Sunday, July 4

- 2:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**
- 3:00 **A Year with Frog and Toad, Stagedoor Inc.**
- 4:00 - 10:00 **Freedom Over Texas with Fireworks Presented by Shell, Eleanor Tinsley Park, Houston**
- 7:30 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**
- 8:30 **ExxonMobil Star-Spangled Salute, Miller Outdoor 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.

