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- Government Meetings and Politics

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Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, July 19, 2010

Galveston Reviews Hurricane Evacuation & Return Plans

“We Just Can’t Have Another 14 Day Delay” – Mayor Joe Jaworski

Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski last week presided over the first meeting of his hurricane preparedness team, comprised of representatives of all of the major entities on Galveston Island.

After more than an hour and one-half of reports, Jaworski gave the city’s department heads an assignment for the next meeting on August 3.



“We just can’t have another 14-day delay,” Jaworski said, referring to the time it took to allow residents to return to their homes after Hurricane Ike, asking the department heads to consider plans to provide for a return to the island within 72 hours of landfall if another major storm causes an evacuation.

Unlike the previous administration, Jaworski opened his hurricane preparedness meeting to the public and the media.

Photos and a complete recording of the meeting are posted on GuidryNews.com.

Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted to award a \$46.43 million contract to W.W. Webber, LLC for rehabilitation of two taxiways and a new west vault at George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Friendswood City Council

Friendswood City Council last week voted 5-1, with Deirdre Carey Brown opposed, to uphold the city council's previous decision to eliminate a proposed site at Deepwood as a possible location for the city's new animal control facility.

The city council voted 3-3, with Smith, Holbert and Barr opposed, and Brown, Hill and Barker in favor of a motion to deny, regarding an affirmation of the city's membership in the county's transit district and selection of an elected officer to serve on the district's governing board. Therefore, the resolution was not approved.

Bayou Vista City Council

Bayou Vista City Council last week voted unanimously to dedicate the city's new community center to the citizens of the city and name the new facility "The Bayou Vista Community Center".

The city council discussed written notification the city received from Municipal Utility District No. 12 that a 10-year lease agreement with the city was cancelled by the district's board of directors. The lease, which is for office

space in the district's building, was to be effective through May 2015. Following the notification of the cancellation, the lease will expire on October 1.

Dickinson City Council

Dickinson City Council last week voted 3-1, with Mary Dunbaugh opposed, to repeal an ordinance that allowed residents to use temporary housing units on their property while repairing damaged homes following the impact of Hurricane Ike.

"Initially, there were approximately 32 temporary housing units in Dickinson," City Administrator Julie Johnston said. "However, as of July 7, 2010, there is only one temporary housing unit remaining in the city."

La Marque City Council

La Marque City Council last week voted 4-1, with Mayor Geraldine Sam opposed, to take no action regarding the employment of City Manager Eric Gage.

Sam had previously requested an item to discuss terminating Gage's employment with the city.

The item had been discussed by the city council behind closed doors during an executive session.

The city council voted unanimously to approve a resolution re-appointing five members and appointing one new

member to the United Board of Health.

League City City Council

League City City Council last week voted 5-1, with Tim Paulissen opposed, to postpone action until August 10 on an ordinance to rezone approximately 81.09 acres at Gun Range Road from a Single Family Residential District to a General Commercial District.

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to engage Orgain, Bell & Tucker, LLP of Beaumont to serve as bond counsel and RBC Capital Markets Corporation of Houston to serve as placement agent in the issuance of \$35 million in Waterworks and Sewer Revenue Bonds.

Port Arthur City Council

Port Arthur City Council last week voted unanimously to amend the city's fiscal year 2010 budget to increase the total appropriation to the city's General Fund by \$547,500.

Nassau Bay City Council

Nassau Bay City Council last week voted unanimously to approve, on first and final reading, an ordinance making several amendments to the 2009-2010 budget.

Shoreacres City Council

Shoreacres City Council last week voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance denying a rate increase proposed by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation, doing business as CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas.

La Porte City Council

La Porte City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a contract with Belt Harris Pechacek, and authorized an additional \$5,000

for service fees, to create a procedures report on the Town Plaza Project.

Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing a voluntary retirement incentive program for selected city employees, and appropriating a total of \$2 million for the program.

Pearland City Council

Pearland City Council last week voted unanimously to award a \$936,408 contract to Statewide Services, Inc. for the construction associated with the Old Town Site Drainage Improvement Project.

Galveston County Mayors

The Galveston County Mayors and Councilmembers'

Association held its July meeting at the new Galveston Fire and EMS Station Number 5 last week.

"Galveston has had a less than stellar participation rate in the Galveston County Mayors and Councilmembers's Association," said Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski in welcoming his fellow elected officials to the new facility. "And that ends yesterday!"



Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to provide storm debris removal for small communities within the county.

Assistance to towns within the county with populations of 3,000 or fewer residents will be provided upon the declaration of a disaster by the county judge.

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to grant a waiver to Pat's Demolition and

Debris Removal from requirements for windstorm insurance in a contract for demolition of property on the Bolivar Peninsula.

"The RFQ was primarily focused on construction contractors," explained James Wilson, director of housing and urban development. "In hindsight, what we should have done is not have the usual insurance requirements to cover demolition contractors because it included insurance that is not applicable to that particular type of work."

Harris County Court

Harris County Commissioners Court last week voted to reappoint Dr. Andrew James and Samuel Jarrett to the Health Facilities Development Corporation.

Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve a petition for an election to legalize the sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption in the City of Bevil Oaks.

The commissioners court voted to call the election for November 2.

Galveston College Regents

The Galveston College Board of Regents last week voted 6-1, with Greg Roof opposed, to fill the vacant position on the board by appointment.

The regent position was held by Ross Novelli, Jr., who recently resigned. The board will appoint a member, who will serve until the May 2012 election to fill the remainder of Novelli's term which will expire in May 2014.

College of the Mainland

The College of the Mainland Board of Trustees, in a special meeting last week, voted 6-1, with Don Criss opposed, to uphold the administration's decision to terminate the employment of a professional employee of the college.

Texas City School Board

The Texas City Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to award a \$139,050 contract to Mesah Commissioning for testing, adjusting and balancing of the air conditioning system for the new Texas City High School and Simpson Education Support Center.

Houston ISD School Board

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education last week voted unanimously to approve the use of up to \$1 million in capital funds on an emergency basis for architectural, engineering, construction and other services for the structural stabilization of Robert E. Lee High School.



During the meeting, Trustee Diana Davila announced her resignation from the board.

Friendswood School Board

The Friendswood Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to approve a 2010 proposed tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 property valuation for maintenance and operations and \$0.327 for debt service payments.

Dickinson ISD School Board

The Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted 4-3, with Fritzie Samford, Linda Butler and Patty Halter opposed, to name Tom Mooney as the district's new Athletic Director.

Galveston Fire Station #5

City of Galveston and Galveston County officials turned out for the official ribbon cutting for the new City of Galveston Fire and EMS Station at the Galveston



County Justice Center Complex last week.

Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski noted that the station is a joint production of Galveston County and the City of Galveston.

"This facility is just another one of the partnerships the county has tried to create over the last 15 years," said Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough. "When you look at it, you drive by, and it looks like it was here from the very beginning. It blends right in with the Justice Center and the jail and the complex that we built here a few years ago."

KCS Railroad Marker

There was a large turnout in Port Arthur for the dedication of a historical marker in recognition of the Kansas City Southern Railroad Station at the site of the Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center, in a building that was erected as a replica of the terminal.

The Guidry News Gazette

The Guidry News Gazette, which provides a concise review of the past week's news and a preview of the next week's meetings, events and entertainment opportunities, is a free print publication of Guidry News Service.

Published on Mondays on GuidryNews.com as a PDF document, the Guidry News Gazette may be downloaded, printed and provided to co-workers, customers, visitors, family and friends.

"It is a free service for those who still prefer to hold their newspaper in their hands," said Publisher Jim Guidry.

Additional information about the stories published in the Guidry News Gazette is available in Gulf Coast E-news and GuidryNews.com.

Deaths

Darby Joseph Mouton (81) of Port Bolivar passed away early Friday

morning, July 16, 2010 at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

Ramona Guzman (81) of Galveston died Friday, July 16 2010 at her residence in Galveston.

Helen Simmons (83) passed away on Monday, July 12, 2010.

Darrell James "Buddy" Thibodeaux (67) of Port Arthur, Texas passed away July 11, 2010.

Melvin Ray Henry (30) passed away early Saturday morning, July 10, 2010.

Jerry Clay Biggers (87) received his reward of eternal rest on Thursday, July 8, 2010, at home, surrounded by his family.

Meetings and Events

Monday, July 19

1:30 **Jefferson County**

Commissioners Court

5:30 **Groves City Council**

5:30 **Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees Special Meeting**

6:00 **Jamaica Beach City Council**

Budget Workshop

6:30 **Hitchcock City Commission**

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

7:00 **Kemah City Council**

Tuesday, July 20

8:00 **Port of Houston Authority**

10:00 **Houston-Galveston Area Council**

10:30 **The Wingless Fairy**, Clear Creek Community Theatre

12:00 **Rotary Club of Texas City**, Nessler Center Captain's Room. Rob Heifner will speak about Healthcare Reform

1:30 **The Wingless Fairy**, Clear Creek Community Theatre

1:30 **Baumont City Council**

6:00 **Webster City Council**

7:00 **Dickinson City Council Workshop**

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

7:00 **Seabrook 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**
7:30 **Galveston Beach Band Concert, Sealy Pavilion**
7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Alley Theatre**
8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

Wednesday, July 21

9:30 **Galveston County Commissioners Court**
10:30 **The Wingless Fairy, Clear Creek Community Theatre**
4:00 **Galveston Intermodal Transportation Committee**
4:30 **Texas City City Commission Budget Workshop**
5:00 **Texas City City Commission**
5:30 **Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees**
6:30 **Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees**
7:30 **El Lago City Council**
7:30 **Taylor Lake Village City Council**
7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Alley Theatre**
7:30 **St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre**
8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

Thursday, July 22

9:00 **Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Board of Directors**
10:30 **The Wingless Fairy, Clear Creek Community Theatre**
1:30 **The Wingless Fairy, Clear Creek Community Theatre**
4:00 **Galveston City Council**
7:00 **Santa Fe City Council**
7:00 **Snow White, Farpoint Theatre**
7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Alley Theatre**
7:30 **St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre**
7:30 **Five Guys Named Moe, Ensemble Theatre**
8:00 **Gypsy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**
8:00 **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**
8:00 **Cabaret, College of the Mainland**

Community Theatre
8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

Friday, July 23

9:30 **Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Policy Council**
10:30 **The Wingless Fairy, Clear Creek Community Theatre**
7:00 **Snow White, Farpoint Theatre**
8:00 **Gypsy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**
8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Alley Theatre**
8:00 **St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre**
8:00 **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**
8:00 **Cabaret, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**
8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**
8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Hollow, Company OnStage**
8:00 **Five Guys Named Moe, Ensemble Theatre**

Saturday, July 24

10:30 **The Wingless Fairy, Clear Creek Community Theatre**
11:00 **Beauty and the Beast, Company OnStage**
1:30 **Beauty and the Beast, Company OnStage**
2:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**
2:00 **Five Guys Named Moe, Ensemble Theatre**
2:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Alley Theatre**
2:30 **St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre**
7:00 **Snow White, Farpoint Theatre**
8:00 **Gypsy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**
8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Alley Theatre**
8:00 **St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre**
8:00 **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**
8:00 **Cabaret, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**
8:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Hollow, Company OnStage**
8:00 **Five Guys Named Moe, Ensemble Theatre**

Sunday, July 25

2:00 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**
2:00 **Snow White, Farpoint Theatre**
2:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Alley Theatre**
2:30 **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**
2:30 **St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre**
2:30 **Gypsy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**
2:30 **Cabaret, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**
3:00 **Five Guys Named Moe, Ensemble Theatre**
7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Alley Theatre**
7:30 **St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre**
7:30 **Wicked, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center**

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).

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

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