

- **Free Publication for the Gulf Coast Region**
- **Concise Review of the Past Week's News**
- **Government Meetings and Politics**

- **Guidry News in Print for Paper Preference People**
- **Schedule of Meetings, Events and Entertainment**
- **For Expanded Coverage Visit www.GuidryNews.com**

Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, July 26, 2010

H-GAC TPC Approves Galveston Projects in TIP

Rail Trolley and Intermodal Center in Transportation Improvement Program

The Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Policy Council on Friday voted unanimously to approve several amendments to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

"Funding for several Galveston projects was placed into the regional plan," said Galveston City Council Member Dianna Puccetti, who made the motion for approval of the amendments.

The amendments include \$1,960,000 for the Galveston Rail Trolley, \$1,015,740 for the Galveston Intermodal Center and Parking Facility, \$237,500 for the Island Transit Maintenance Facility, and \$500,000 for replacement of a Galveston transit vehicle.

The TPC approved a resolution recognizing the service of Michael Marcotte, who recently resigned as director of public works in Houston and thus will no longer serve on the council.

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

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to approve an ordinance authorizing the institution

of a cost of service adjustment rate schedule by CenterPoint Energy.

The adjustment will increase residential customer electricity rates by \$0.35 per month, small commercial customer rates by \$0.60 per month and large volume consumers by \$1.76 per month. The rates will draw a total of \$886,508 in additional revenues for the year.



Galveston City Council

Galveston City Council last week voted unanimously to move toward calling an election in May 2011 for a plan to charge a fee for parking on Seawall Boulevard.

The city council voted unanimously to affirm that City Manager Steve LeBlanc is the sole negotiator in collective bargaining negotiations with International Association of Fire Fighters Local 571 and the Galveston Municipal Police Association.

The city council also voted unanimously to retain the law firm of Denton, Navarro, Rocha & Bernal as the city's attorneys in the collective bargaining negotiations with the two unions.

Texas City City Commission

The Texas City City Commission last week voted unanimously to request consolidating the county's and city's maintenance of birth and death records.

Tiki Island Aldermen

The Village of Tiki Island Board of Aldermen last week voted unanimously to adopt a resolution suspending the August 6 effective date of a rate change request by CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric.

Hitchcock City Commission

The Hitchcock City Commission last week voted unanimously to extend permission for residents awarded housing assistance through the Galveston County Housing Assistance Program to occupy trailers owned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through January 11.

Bayou Vista Aldermen

Bayou Vista City Council, in a special meeting last week, received an overview of the city's 2009-2010 budget from Elizabeth Iles of accounting firm Null-Lairson.

Santa Fe City Council

Santa Fe City Council last week voted unanimously to adopt a resolution finding that a rate increase requested by CenterPoint Energy Entex for natural gas service should be denied.

Taylor Lake Village Council

Taylor Lake Village City Council last week voted 3-2, with Einar Goerland and Tony Galt opposed, to prohibit alcohol in the city's parks.

Kemah City Council

Kemah City Council last week voted unanimously to authorize Mayor Matt Wiggins to negotiate a contract, not to exceed \$48,000, for repairs and improvements to the Railroad Museum Building.

Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first reading of an ordinance nominating PolyOne Corporation to the Office of the Governor's Development and Tourism Department as an enterprise project.

El Lago City Council

El Lago City Council last week voted to deny a proposed rate increase by CenterPoint Energy.

The city council also received an update on the construction of a splash pad at the city's park.

"It's real exciting, actually, it should be open in a couple of weeks," Mayor Brad Emel said. "It's a major capital improvement for our parks area."

Seabrook City Council

Seabrook City Council last week voted unanimously to appoint John Dolan as an alternate member of the Board of Adjustment for the Building Standards Committee.

Webster City Council

Webster City Council last week voted unanimously to authorize Mayor Floyd Myers to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Clear Lake Regional Medical Center for sheltering essential city personnel in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster.

Clear Lake Shores Council

Clear Lake Shores City Council last week voted unanimously to join the Galveston County-Wide Urban-Rural Transit District and named Council Member Jackie Fuller to represent the city on the district's board.

Galveston ISD School Board

The Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to name Larry W. Nichols, currently Calhoun County's Superintendent of Schools, as the finalist for the position of Superintendent of Schools.



Texas A&M Regents

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents last week approved a \$3.3 billion operating budget for the 2011 fiscal year.

Galveston College Regents

The Galveston College Board of Regents last week approved increases in tuition and fees from \$581 to \$653 for 12 credit hours for in-district students in the spring semester of 2011, and then to \$685 in summer 2011.

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve mutual aid law enforcement agreements with municipal governments in Galveston County.

"Basically, this just kind of formalizes some of our long-standing

and solid relationships we've had with all the cities," said Major Ray Tuttoilmondo of the Galveston County Sheriff's Office.

Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve a cooperative purchasing agreement for disaster preparedness management services with R.W. Beck in accordance with a Houston-Galveston Area Council contract.

The commissioners court began hearings on the 2010-2011 budget prior to the meeting. The budget hearings will continue throughout the week.

Houston METRO

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Board of Directors last week voted to enter into a new contract with McDade, Smith, Gould, Johnston, Mason & Co. to meet new standards for handling real estate transactions.

Galveston Intermodal

The City of Galveston Intermodal Transportation Committee, which did not have a quorum last week, discussed several items, including the proposed Livable Communities Initiative Downtown Transportation Terminal, in an informal session.

Jonathan Hale of Gulf Copper Corporation updated the committee on his efforts to construct a bicycle path on the Herbert Schmidt Pelican Island Causeway, using the abandoned railroad tracks on the bridge as the bed for the trail.

Deaths

Richard Dix Diehl (83) of Dickinson, Texas passed away July 20, 2010.

Judy Gail Broughton (66) passed away peacefully Thursday, July 22, 2010 at her residence in Galveston surrounded by her family.

Florrie Gayle Williams (51) passed away on July, 21, 2010 in Irving, Texas.

Ayden Thompson (infant) died on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at UTMB Hospital in Galveston.

Daniel Alan Polk (17) of Galveston passed away early Friday morning, July 16, 2010 at John Sealy Hospital.

Darby Joseph Mouton (81) of Port Bolivar passed away early Friday morning, July 16, 2010 at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

Meetings and Events

Monday, July 26

8:00 **Board of Trustees of the Galveston Finance Committee**

9:00 **Galveston Port Facilities Corporation Annual Meeting**

9:15 **Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves Annual Meeting**

9:20 **Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves**

9:30 **Jefferson County Commissioners Court Budget Hearings Begin**

10:00 **Port of Beaumont Board of Commissioners**

1:30 **Jefferson County Commissioners Court**

6:00 **La Marque City Council**

6:00 **La Porte City Council**

7:00 **Pearland City Council Workshop**

7:00 **Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees**

7:00 **Dickinson Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors**

7:00 **Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees**

7:00 **Shoreacres City Council**

7:30 **Pearland City Council**

Tuesday, July 27

9:00 **Port of Houston Authority**

9:00 **Brazoria County Commissioners Court**

10:00 **Harris County Commissioners Court**

10:00 **Pasadena City Council**

12:00 **Rotary Club of Texas City,**

Nessler Center Captain's Room. Bob

Stokes will speak about the Galveston Bay Foundation

1:30 **Houston City Council**

1:30 **Beaumont City Council**

5:30 **Port Arthur City Council**

6:00 **Dickinson City**

Council Workshop

6:00 **La Marque Independent School**

District Board of Trustees Workshop

6:00 **League City City Council**

6:00 **Pasadena Independent School**

District Board of Trustees

6:30 **La Marque City Council Budget Workshop**

7:00 **Dickinson City Council**

7:30 **Galveston Beach Band Concert,**
Sealy Pavilion

7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap,**
Alley Theatre

Wednesday, July 28

9:00 **Houston City Council**

9:30 **Galveston County Commissioners Court**

1:30 **Stakeholder Committee Meeting**

for the Galveston-Houston Mobility

Corridor Alternative Analysis, Hilton

Garden Inn 750 W. Texas Avenue,

Webster

5:00 **Houston-Galveston Area Council**

Public Hearing on Community

Development Block Grant Round Two

Hurricane Ike Recovery Funding,

Galveston County Courthouse, 722

Moody, Galveston

7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap,**
Alley Theatre

7:30 **St. Nicholas,** Alley Theatre

Thursday, July 29

11:30 **Galveston Chamber of**

Commerce Visions into the Future

Luncheon, Tremont House Hotel

Davidson Ballroom

5:30 **Galveston College Board of**

Regents Budget Workshop

6:30 **La Marque City Council Budget**

Workshop

7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap,**
Alley Theatre

7:30 **St. Nicholas,** Alley 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 **A Midsummer Night's Dream,**
Clear Creek Community Theatre

Friday, July 30

8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap,**
Alley Theatre

8:00 **St. Nicholas,** Alley 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 **A Midsummer Night's Dream,**

Clear Creek Community Theatre

8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Hollow,**

Company OnStage

Saturday, July 31

11:00 **Beauty and the Beast,** Company

OnStage

1:30 **Beauty and the Beast,** Company

OnStage

2:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap,**
Alley Theatre

2:30 **St. Nicholas,** Alley 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 **A Midsummer Night's Dream,**
Clear Creek Community Theatre

8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Hollow,**
Company OnStage

Sunday, August 1

2:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap,**
Alley Theatre

2:30 **St. Nicholas,** Alley Theatre

2:30 **Gypsy,** Island etc at The Strand

Theatre

2:30 **A Funny Thing Happened on the**

Way to the Forum, Bay Area Harbour

Playhouse

2:30 **Cabaret,** College of the Mainland

Community Theatre

2:30 **A Midsummer Night's Dream,**
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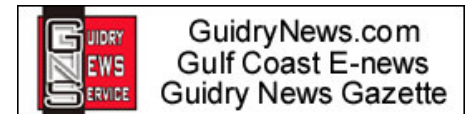
About Guidry News Service

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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