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- Government Meetings and Politics

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Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, August 2, 2010

City Manager Must Be Held Accountable - Jaworski Galveston Mayor and Council Members Call For Balanced Budget

Mayor Joe Jaworski and members of Galveston City Council were the featured speakers at last week's Galveston Chamber of Commerce "Visions Into the Future" luncheon.

"We have given the direction to the city manager to do a balanced budget," said Council Member Rusty Legg, setting the tone for the forum. "I know that's going to happen."

Jaworski said that City Manager Steve LeBlanc, who has not had a performance review by the city council for several years, must be held accountable.

"This city won't function well if he isn't held to the highest level of accountability," Jaworski said. "I think he's ready for it. You know, it's time for Steve LeBlanc to bring out his 'A Game'; and he wants to. I mean, who wouldn't want to? So, he knows that this city council wants him to excel, we want him to raise his level of performance; and the best way to make that happen is for us to review him every six months."

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

Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted to confirm the appointment of

Daniel W. Krueger as director of the Public Works and Engineering Department.

Krueger was formerly the deputy director of the city's Engineering and Construction Division under the Public Works and Engineering Department.



"Mr. Krueger's return to Houston will bring a wealth of experience to the department, including 19 years with the United States Army and the Army Corps of Engineers," Mayor Annise Parker said.

League City City Council

League City City Council last week voted unanimously to select CDM Constructors, Inc. as Construction Manager at Risk and establish a guaranteed maximum price for the Southwest Wastewater Reclamation Facility Project.

Dickinson City Council

Dickinson City Council last week voted unanimously to deny a Cost of Service Adjustment proposed by CenterPoint Energy Entex Gas.

"In the filing, CenterPoint seeks an increase of \$4.7 million," City Administrator Julie Johnston said. "This is an overall increase in base revenues of approximately 9.2%. If approved, annual rates for an average residential customer would increase by approximately \$1.50 per month."

La Marque City Council

La Marque City Council last week voted 2-2-1, with Mayor Geraldine Sam and Mayor Pro Tem Keith Bell in favor of approval, Connie Trube and Larry Mann opposed, and Deanie Barrett abstaining, to defeat a motion to approve a resolution requiring a majority of council members to place any items regarding personnel matters, the repeal of city ordinances, or resolutions on future meeting agendas.

Port Arthur City Council

Port Arthur City Council last week voted 4-3, with Mayor Deloris "Bobbie" Prince, Morris Albright, and Liz Segler opposed, to approve a letter of agreement with Lamar University to participate in the SETCAST for the video recording of city meetings.

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to authorize an

amendment to the city's contract with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to increase the amount of a grant awarded for weatherization of homes in the city.

Shoreacres City Council

Shoreacres City Council last week voted unanimously to authorize \$8,000 for the purchase of a network server, router, uninterruptible power supply, external back-up drive and a single workstation for the city.

Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week approved the first reading of an amendment to an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Rural Affairs for the remaining Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to be paid to the city in connection with Hurricane Ike.

La Porte City Council

La Porte City Council last week voted unanimously to continue the city's Curfew Ordinance for an additional three years without changes to the existing ordinance.

Pearland City Council

Pearland City Council last week voted unanimously to award a \$4.148 million contract to Huff & Mitchell, Inc. for construction services associated with the city's 30-inch waterline interconnect.

Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to award a primary contract for disaster debris clean-up to DRC Emergency Services, LLC.

Harris County Court

Harris County Commissioners Court last week voted to renew a \$1.2 million contract with Aramark

Correctional Services, LLC, for food catering services for the Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week held a workshop meeting on the need to elevate Highway 87 on the Bolivar Peninsula.

Mary Ann Rogers said that the residents of the peninsula were inundated by the storm surge of Tropical Storm Alex. "It prohibited the loading of crucial ferry traffic; it impacted both evacuation routes on the peninsula."

Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve a resolution in support of the Chocolate Bayou Dredging Project.

Galveston-Houston Mobility

Representatives of The Goodman Corporation last week updated the Stakeholder Committee Meeting for the Galveston-Houston Mobility Corridor Alternative Analysis, explaining that the options recommended by the federal government are too expensive and suggesting that less expensive options should be considered.

"We don't agree with the federal process," Barry Goodman said. "We don't agree that we have to be locked into a process that ends up in solutions which can't be afforded and not only from a capital standpoint but from an operating standpoint; and so we are looking to move into a phase that looks at cost-effective solutions."

Clear Creek School Board

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees on Monday voted unanimously to set a proposed tax rate for the 2010-2011

fiscal year at \$1.04 per \$100 valuation for operations and maintenance and \$0.32 for debt.

La Marque ISD School Board

The La Marque Independent School District last week announced that staff presented a balanced budget for the 2010-2011 school year.

A total of \$2.1 million from 10 federal grants will be applied to teacher salaries.

Santa Fe ISD School Board

The Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to approve an expenditure of \$95,000 in bond funds for technology purchases.

Port of Houston Authority

Port of Houston Authority Chief Executive Officer Alec Dreyer reported to the PHA Commission last week that business at the port continued to improve during June.

Jeffrey L. Boney, chief executive officer of the Texas Business Alliance, presented the Soaring Eagle Award to Commissioner Case Lawal for his support of the http://www.houstonisd.org/HISDConnectEnglish/Home/Board%20of%20Education/Board%20Meetings-Agendas/Board%20Meetings%20and%20Agendas%20PDFs/Aug_5_10_Eng%20_REV_.pdf and Minority Business Enterprise programs.

Port of Galveston Board

The Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves last week voted unanimously to accept the Federal Single Audit Report on the expenditure of federal funds, which was prepared by Null-Lairson, P.C.

"It seems to me that what we're learning is that our policies may or may not need a little revision, but it is our procedures that seem to give us a lot of grief," said Wharves Board



Chair Roland Bassett after the presentation.

"We may not have the correct procedures in place; and even if we do have the correct procedures, particularly post-Ike, those procedures are not being followed to the letter."

Deaths

Romualda S. Agrella (103) former longtime resident of Galveston died Sunday, August 1, 2010 in Liverpool, Texas. Funeral arrangements are pending with Carnes Brothers Funeral Home in Galveston.

Thomas Fielding Hill, III (43) of Galveston died Saturday, July 31, 2010 in Mexia, Texas. Funeral arrangements are pending at Carnes Brothers Funeral Home in Galveston.

Raymond Benson (70) of Galveston died Thursday, July 29, 2010 at his residence.

Willis Griffith (84) of Galveston passed away, Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at Oceanview Transitional Care Center in Texas City.

Inez Elmore (90) of Galveston passed from this life to the next, Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at Gulf Health Care Center in Galveston.

Octavia Marie Branham-Frenchwood (91) passed away July 27, 2010 Dorothy Springer Mitchell (92) passed from this life Tuesday night, July 27, 2010, in Alvin.

Meetings and Events

Monday, August 2

12:30 College of the Mainland Board of Trustees

1:00 Galveston Park Board of Trustees

1:30 Jefferson County Commissioners Court

6:00 Texas Rail Plan Open House Meeting, TxDOT Houston Office 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston

6:30 Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees

6:30 La Marque City Council Budget Workshop

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

7:00 Friendswood City Council

7:00 Kemah City Council

Tuesday, August 3

1:30 Houston City Council

1:30 Beaumont City Council

5:30 Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees

6:00 La Marque Independent School District Board of Trustees Public Hearing and Special Meeting

6:00 Webster City Council

6:30 Bayou Vista City Council

6:30 Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees

6:30 La Marque City Council Budget Workshop

6:30 Clear Lake Shores City Council

7:00 Dickinson City Council Workshop

7:00 Seabrook City Council

7:30 Pasadena City Council

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

8:30 A Midsummer Night's Dream, Miller Outdoor Theatre

Wednesday, August 4

9:00 Houston City Council

9:30 Galveston County Commissioners Court

5:00 Texas City City Commission

7:30 El Lago City Council

7:30 Taylor Lake Village City Council

7:30 St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre

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

8:30 Much Ado About Nothing, Miller Outdoor Theatre

Thursday, August 5

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

6:30 La Marque City Council Budget Workshop

7:30 St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre

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

8:00 Cabaret, College of the Mainland Community Theatre

8:00 A Midsummer Night's Dream, Clear Creek Community Theatre

8:00 Gypsy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre

8:30 A Midsummer Night's Dream, Miller Outdoor Theatre

Friday, August 6

8:00 St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre

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

8:00 Cabaret, College of the Mainland Community Theatre

8:00 A Midsummer Night's Dream,

Clear Creek Community Theatre

8:00 Gypsy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre

8:00 Come Back to the 5&Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, Stage Door Inc.

8:30 Much Ado About Nothing, Miller Outdoor Theatre

Saturday, August 7

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

2:30 St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre

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

8:00 St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre

8:00 Cabaret, College of the Mainland Community Theatre

8:00 A Midsummer Night's Dream, Clear Creek Community Theatre

8:00 Gypsy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre

8:00 Come Back to the 5&Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, Stage Door Inc.

8:30 A Midsummer Night's Dream, Miller Outdoor Theatre

Sunday, August 8

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

2:30 St. Nicholas, Alley Theatre

2:30 Cabaret, College of the Mainland Community Theatre

2:30 A Midsummer Night's Dream, Clear Creek Community Theatre

3:00 Come Back to the 5&Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, Stage Door Inc.

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

8:30 Much Ado About Nothing, 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

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