

- 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
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# Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, August 16, 2010

## Houston City Council Proposes Changes to Charter

### *Amendments Would Reduce Residency Requirements for Council Candidates*

*Houston City Council last week voted to place a proposition on the November 2 election ballot to reduce the city charter's residency requirement for district council offices from twelve months to six months.*

The city council voted also to submit a proposed amendment that provides for the creation of a dedicated source of funding to "enhance, improve and renew the city's drainage system and streets".

A proposed amendment to increase the terms for city elective offices from two years to four years, and to change term limits to allow two four-year terms in the same office, was deferred.

### Galveston City Council

Galveston City Council last week voted 5-1, with Elizabeth Beeton opposed, to formally withdraw the city's Beachfront Construction and Dune Protection amendments from the General Land Office certification process, to clarify whether previously platted properties should be exempted and to remove the accreting east end of the island from the ordinance.

The city council meeting was visited by Natha Nuckols who said she wanted to publicly thank the Galveston



firefighters who recently saved her life in a fire.

### Jamaica Beach City Council

Jamaica Beach City Council, during a special meeting last week, voted unanimously to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool for employee group health insurance for 2010-2011.

Prior to the meeting, the city council held a workshop to discuss the proposed 2010-2011 budget and effective tax rate. The city council is considering a property tax rate equal to the city's effective rate of \$0.289 per \$100 valuation. The effective rate is the amount required to provide revenues to the city equal to those of the previous year.



### La Marque City Council

La Marque City Council last week voted unanimously to appoint Carolyn Anderson as city clerk.

The city council discussed, but took no action regarding the 2010-2011 tax rate. The city's administration has recommended leaving the property tax rate at its current level, \$0.51436 per \$100

valuation, with \$0.407385 of the rate dedicated to maintenance and operations of the city, and the remaining \$0.106975 dedicated to making payments on the city's bond debts.

### Texas City City Commission

The Texas City City Commission last week unanimously approved a record vote on a tax rate of \$0.425 per \$100 valuation for 2010-2011.

### Santa Fe City Council

Santa Fe City Council last week voted 3-2, with Pat McCrary and Jim Abney opposed, to propose a tax rate of \$0.3114 per \$100 valuation for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

### Dickinson City Council

Dickinson City Council last week voted 5-1, with Louis Decker opposed, to set a proposed tax rate of \$0.4086 per \$100 valuation, and scheduled public hearings for August 24 and August 31 to receive comments on the proposed budget and tax rate for 2010-2011.

The proposed tax rate reflects no change in the rate from 2009. The proposed rate is in excess of the effective tax rate of \$0.406098, but below the rollback tax rate of \$0.428423.

## League City City Council

League City City Council last week voted 6-1, with Joanna Sharp Dawson opposed to the motion, to defeat a resolution to relocate the boundless playground site to the Chester L. Davis Sportsplex, reversing the city council's vote at a special meeting last week.

Thus, the park, which will provide a playground for those with disabilities, will now be placed in League Park, where it was first proposed.

## La Porte City Council

La Porte City Council last week held discussions concerning the proposed 2010-2011 budget.

## Shoreacres City Council

Shoreacres City Council last week voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance amending residential driveway requirements.

## Nassau Bay City Council

Nassau Bay City Council last week voted unanimously to award a \$165,000 contract to Ashbrook Simon-Hartley to furnish and install a refurbished belt press at the city's wastewater treatment plant.

## Seabrook City Council

Seabrook City Council, in a special meeting last week, voted unanimously to extend a permit to allow the use of a temporary Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer at 1305 Meyer Road through May 11, 2011.

## Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first reading of a \$277,721 contract with Mar-Con Services, LLC, for the Albemarle Bridge Improvements Project.

## Pearland City Council

Pearland City Council last week voted unanimously to accept the 2010 certified appraisal roll for properties within the city that fall in Brazoria County.

"The certified roll represents an increase of \$34 million over the latest 2009 adjusted roll," City Manager Bill Eisen said. "Of this increase, \$151.7 million is due to new value offset by \$117.7 million in revaluation loss on existing residential and commercial properties.

## Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a record vote on the proposed 2010 tax rate of \$0.64 per \$100 valuation, and scheduled public hearings for August 31 and September 7 to receive comments on the proposed tax rate.

## Port Arthur City Council

Port Arthur City Council last week voted to deny approval of an application by Southeast Texas EMS for an ambulance service agreement. The vote on the motion to approve the application was 3-5-1, with only John Beard, Jr., Jack Chapman and D. Kay Wise voting in favor of approval and Martin Flood recused from voting.

## Harris County Court

Harris County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve a proposal by the Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Public Defenders Subcommittee for public defender services for indigent criminal defendants.

A special guest at the meeting was Lisa Modlich, the Ladies World Veterans Champion Table Tennis Player. Modlich, who is 85, said she will play table tennis until she dies,



and then she will teach St. Peter to play.

## Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve a proposed tax rate of \$0.733816 per \$100 valuation, which is the rollback rate - the maximum rate that the county could levy without triggering the procedure to call a "roll back" election.

County Judge Jim Yarbrough noted that the rollback rate is being used to allow the commissioners court flexibility, but stressed that it is the court's intention, as in previous years, to adopt a final tax rate to support the FY 2011 Budget that is *much* lower.

## Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to order an election for November 2, 2010.

## Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to rescind award of a secondary "pre-disaster" contract to Garner Environmental for emergency disaster assistance recovery.

The commissioners court voted to re-award the secondary "pre-disaster" contract for emergency disaster assistance recovery to Crowder Gulf.

## University of Texas Regents

The University of Texas System Board of Regents last week approved a \$12.8 billion operating budget for the UT System for fiscal year 2011, representing an increase of \$829 million over the previous fiscal year.

The board of regents authorized \$4 million for a new initiative program "geared toward improving medical education".

## Galveston College Regents

The Galveston College Board of Regents last week voted unanimously to approve an interlocal agreement with Galveston Independent School District to extend use of the school district's welding shop through the fall semester.

## Galveston ISD School Board

The Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees, in a special meeting last week, voted unanimously to appoint Larry W. Nichols as superintendent of schools and approve Nichols' contract as negotiated.

## Houston ISD School Board

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education last week voted 3-5, with Lawrence Marshall, Carol Galloway and Manuel Rodriguez, Jr. the only votes in favor, to deny a motion to call for a special election to fill the trustee position vacated by Diana Davila.

The school board voted 8-0 to approve a Strategic Direction "that will guide the transformation of the district over the next several years".

## La Marque School Board

The La Marque Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted to approve a contract with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for representation of the district in property value appeals.

## Friendswood School Board

The Friendswood Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to adopt a tax rate of \$1.367 per \$100 valuation for the 2010-2011 school year.

## Texas City School Board

The Texas City Independent School District Board of Trustees last week

voted unanimously to order the sale of 2010 series school building bonds.

## Deaths

**Michael Gale "Frog" Hebert** (62) of Port Arthur passed away on Thursday, August 12, 2010, at his home.

**Celia Cazares Urbina** (74) passed away August 12, 2010, peacefully at her home in Galveston, Texas surrounded by her loving family.

**Richard Rico "Flipper" Ramos** (50) of Tyler died unexpectedly Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at his residence in Tyler.

**Ben K. Peek, Jr.** (79) passed from this life Wednesday afternoon, August 11, 2010, at his home.

**Mrs. Tom E. Simpson** (82) passed away August 9, 2010, at Mainland Medical Center in Texas City. Inez Marie Cade (81) of Irving died Monday, August 9, 2010 at Baylor Irving Hospital in Irving, Texas.

**Mary Ruth White** (66) passed away on Monday, August 9, 2010, at Mainland Medical Center.

## Meetings and Events

### Monday, August 16

1:30 Jefferson County Commissioners Court  
6:00 Friendswood City Council  
6:30 Hitchcock City Commission  
6:45 Kemah City Council Joint Meeting with the Kemah Community Development Corporation  
7:00 Kemah City Council  
7:00 Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees

### Tuesday, August 17

8:30 Galveston County Mid County Annex Groundbreaking Ceremony, 9300 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway, Texas City  
10:00 Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors  
1:30 Houston City Council  
1:30 Beaumont City Council  
6:00 Webster City Council  
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

### Wednesday, August 18

9:00 Houston City Council  
9:30 Galveston County Commissioners Court  
4:00 Galveston Intermodal Transportation Committee  
5:00 Texas City City Commission  
6:30 Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees  
7:30 El Lago City Council

### Thursday, August 19

10:00 Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council, Carl Park Center, 1800 Lakeshore Drive, Port Arthur  
8:00 Get Smart!, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse

### Friday, August 20

8:00 Come Back to the Five & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, Stage Door Inc.  
8:00 Get Smart!, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse

### Saturday, August 21

8:30 West Galveston Island Property Owners Association, Galveston Country Club  
2:30 Aladdin, Jr., Clear Creek Community Theatre  
8:00 Get Smart!, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse  
8:00 Aladdin, Jr., Clear Creek Community Theatre  
8:00 Come Back to the Five & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, Stage Door Inc.  
8:00 Aladdin, Jr., Clear Creek Community Theatre

### Sunday, August 22

2:30 Get Smart!, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse  
3:00 Come Back to the Five & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, Stage Door Inc.

## 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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