

- 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](http://www.GuidryNews.com)

# Guidry News Gazette

A FREE Publication of Guidry News Service - Print it, Copy it, Share it

Monday, August 30, 2010

## Galveston Council OKs Mitchell Downtown Terminal *Mitchell Historic Properties to Purchase Parking Lot for Transportation Terminal*

*Galveston City Council last week voted unanimously to authorize City Manager Steve LeBlanc to execute a letter of intent with Mitchell Historic Properties for the development and construction of a Downtown Transportation Terminal and parking facility.*

The terminal will be built on property currently owned by the Brown Family Trust on the northeast corner of 25th Street at The Strand. Mitchell plans to purchase the property in conjunction with a grant from the Livable Communities Initiative.

Almost three dozen public safety employees appeared before the city council to speak in opposition to reductions in the police and fire departments.



Photos and audio excerpts from the meeting are posted on [GuidryNews.com](http://GuidryNews.com).

### Dickinson City Council

Dickinson City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first reading of a revision to the city's Code of Ordinances to clarify the city's appeal process for decisions made by the Building Standards Commission.

Dickinson Mayor Julie Masters has been elected Second Vice President of the Texas Municipal League's Region 14.

### League City City Council

League City City Council last week voted unanimously to terminate Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1 - Magnolia Creek, and approve the termination of an interlocal agreement with Galveston County.

The city council had approved the formation of Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1 in 1997, and designated 712 acres in the Magnolia Creek Master Planned Community as within the zone. The Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone is being dissolved due to substantial completion of the project plan.



### Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted unanimously to confirm the appointment of Joseph G. Soliz to the Civil Service Commission.

The city council voted to honor a petition to put a proposed amendment to the City Charter prohibiting red light cameras on the ballot in November. Council Member Anne Clutterback, who opposed the item when it was discussed on Tuesday, continued to speak in opposition to such petitions at Wednesday's meeting. "If 20,000 people said we want to

revise the City Charter and legalize marijuana, must we, Mayor, put it on the ballot?" Clutterback asked. "If 20,000 people, as they did in San Francisco, put on the ballot to legalize gay marriage, must we do it?"

### Port Arthur City Council

Port Arthur City Council last week voted unanimously to appoint Sherri Ballard as Acting City Secretary to serve in the event of the absence of the city secretary.

### Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to approve Parks and Recreation Director Jim Thompson as the city's representative to apply for a license from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to allow alcohol sales at the Henry Homberg Golf Course.

"The Parks and Recreation Department operates the golf course as an enterprise, and its staff believes that such sales will allow the Henry Homberg Golf Course to be more competitive, as well as enhance its opportunities to host tournaments," City Manager Kyle Hayes said.

### La Marque City Council

La Marque City Council last week voted unanimously to promote Interim

Court Clerk Lisa Snider to permanent court clerk.

### **Santa Fe City Council**

Santa Fe City Council last week voted unanimously to approve \$640,498 as the budgeted amount for the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

### **Friendswood City Council**

Friendswood City Council last week voted unanimously to accept paving improvements associated with West Boulevard and Falcon Ridge Boulevard.

### **Shoreacres City Council**

Shoreacres City Council last week voted 4-1, with Nancy Schnell opposed, to approve proposing a 2010-2011 property tax rate that exceeds the city's effective tax rate.

No exact tax rate amount was proposed. Currently, the city does not have a calculated effective tax rate, which is the property tax amount required to draw revenues equal to those of the previous fiscal year.

### **Pearland City Council**

Pearland City Council last week voted unanimously to approve renewal rates for employee insurance with various vendors.

The city council voted to renew a contract with Wells Fargo for bank depository services.

"The bank has provided excellent services over the last three years and worked with staff in implementing much of the e-technology that we use today," City Manager Bill Eisen said.

### **La Porte City Council**

La Porte City Council last week voted 3-5, with Mike Mosteit, Chuck Engelken and Mike Clausen the only votes in favor of approval, to deny a motion to petition the Texas Legislature to extend population

requirements to 50,000 for "Type B" Development Corporation Board retail development projects.

Under current state laws, cities with a population greater than 20,000, such as La Porte, cannot utilize funds from Type B sales tax proceeds for projects that promote retail business development. La Porte currently collects a one-half cent "Type B" sales tax.

### **Pasadena City Council**

Pasadena City Council last week voted 6-2, with Don Harrison and Pat Van Houte opposed, to approve the first reading of a purchase of 5,000 96-gallon refuse containers from Cascade Engineering for a total of \$235,400.

### **Clear Creek School Board**

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to adopt the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget.

### **Dickinson ISD School Board**

The Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to adopt a 2010 property tax rate of \$1.54 per \$100 valuation.

Of the total tax rate, the district has designated \$1.04 for maintenance and operation of the district, and designated \$0.50 per \$100 valuation for payments on the district's bond issue debt.

### **Houston ISD School Board**

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education last week voted to accept a \$1.5 million donation for the HISD Foundation by the Liemandt Foundation to support a math mastery incentive program for fifth grade students and parents.

The school board approved a vendor award to Magnet Schools of America to conduct an external audit of the district's magnet program.

### **La Marque School Board**

The La Marque Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to approve amendments to the district's 2009-2010 budget.

### **Santa Fe ISD School Board**

The Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to adopt the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget.

### **Galveston ISD School Board**

The Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to adopt a tax rate of \$1.165 per \$100 valuation for the 2010-2011 school year.

### **Hitchcock ISD School Board**

The Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees last week let a motion die to order a tax ratification election for the district's 2010-2011 tax rate.

A motion was made to hold a tax ratification election, or "rollback" election, but the motion did not receive a second for consideration. A tax ratification election would allow voters to cast votes as to whether the district could adopt a tax rate in excess of the "rollback rate".

### **Galveston College Regents**

The Galveston College Board of Regents last week voted unanimously to publish a proposed tax rate of \$0.189475 per \$100 valuation for the 2010-2011 college year.

The tax rate is a reduction from the current tax rate, which is \$0.19 per \$100 valuation.

### **Alvin Community College**

The Alvin Community College Board of Regents last week voted to adopt a budget of \$24.51 million for the 2010-2011 for maintenance and operations of the college, as well as

adopt a 2010 tax rate of \$0.199830 per \$100 valuation, the same rate currently held by the college.

### Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to set the date of September 1, 2010 for a vote on the proposed 2010 tax rate of \$0.62875 per \$100 valuation.

The commissioners court approved a resolution honoring the memory of Jane Herbert Wilkinson Long, "Mother of the State of Texas", and honoring the residents of Bolivar Peninsula.



### Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to grant a seven year tax abatement for Shintech, Inc. for the expansion of the company's packing plant facility.

### Harris County Court

Harris County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to authorize District Attorney Patricia Lykos to negotiate with representatives of the Park Plaza Professional Building for lease of space to house the interim crime lab facility for the Institute of Forensic Sciences.

### Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve an interlocal agreement with Port Neches-Groves Independent School District to enable the county to assist the school district in two projects to repair roads and parking facilities.

### Port of Galveston

The Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves last week voted 5-1, with Eddie Walsh opposed, to approve an annual salary of \$76,379 for former wharves board member Roger Quiroga to take the position of

Director of Real Estate and External Affairs.

### Deaths

**Donald Schattel Sr.** (79) of Galveston, passed away Wednesday, August 25, 2010, in Galveston, at UTMB Hospital.

**Joseph Lewis "Honey Bear" "Sonny" Sykes** (70) of Galveston died on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 after a lengthy illness.

**Jimmy N. Collins** (52) passed away on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at his residence.

**Joseph Scrofne Sr.** (89) passed away at his home surrounded by his family on Tuesday, August 24, 2010.

### Meetings and Events

#### Monday, August 30

- 10:00 Port of Beaumont Board of Commissioners
- 1:30 Jefferson County Commissioners Court
- 12:30 College of the Mainland Board of Trustees
- 5:00 Galveston Housing Authority
- 6:00 Friendswood Independent School District Board of Trustees

#### Tuesday, August 31

- 9:00 Port of Houston Authority
- 9:00 Brazoria County Commissioners Court
- 1:30 Houston City Council
- 1:30 Beaumont City Council
- 5:00 Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees, Ballot Position Drawing, Lovenberg GISD Support Center Library
- 6:30 Santa Fe City Council Special Meeting
- 7:00 Dickinson City Council Special Meeting
- 7:30 Pasadena City Council
- 7:30 A Behanding in Spokane, Alley Theatre

#### Wednesday, September 1

- 9:00 Houston City Council
- 9:30 Galveston County Commissioners Court
- 12:00 United Way of Galveston Campaign Kick-off Luncheon, Moody Gardens Ballroom
- 5:00 Texas City City Commission
- 7:30 El Lago City Council

7:30 Taylor Lake Village City Council  
7:30 A Behanding in Spokane, Alley Theatre

#### Thursday, September 2

7:30 a.m. Houston Independent School District Board of Education Workshop  
7:00 La Marque Independent School District Board of Trustees  
7:30 A Behanding in Spokane, Alley Theatre  
8:00 Get Smart!, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse

#### Friday, September 3

8:00 Get Smart!, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse  
8:00 A Behanding in Spokane, Alley Theatre

#### Saturday, September 4

2:30 A Behanding in Spokane, Alley Theatre  
8:00 Get Smart!, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse  
8:00 A Behanding in Spokane, Alley Theatre  
8:00 The Doctor's Dilemma (Preview), Main Street Theater - Rice Village

#### Sunday, September 5

2:30 A Behanding in Spokane, Alley Theatre  
2:30 Get Smart!, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse  
3:00 The Doctor's Dilemma (Preview), Main Street Theater - Rice Village  
7:30 A Behanding in Spokane, Alley 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.

Guidry News Service is currently seeking a marketing representative with a proven track record in the Houston market.

Call (409) 763-NEWS (6397) or email [News@GuidryNews.com](mailto: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.



GuidryNews.com  
Gulf Coast E-news  
Guidry News Gazette