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- Government Meetings and Politics

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Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, September 6, 2010

Texas City Commission Designates City as "Recovery Zone" Action Qualifies City for Low Interest Bonds under Obama Stimulus Program

The Texas City City Commission last week voted unanimously to designate the city as a "Recovery Zone" in order to issue low interest bonds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"The Federal Government has allocated \$135 million to the State of Texas to be used for investment in areas suffering economic distress," Director of Management Services Nick Finan said. "In general, Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds may be used to finance certain 'qualified economic development purposes' and Recovery Zone Facility Bonds may be used to finance certain 'recovery zone property'."



Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted unanimously to approve an oil and gas lease with Southern Star Exploration LLC for prospecting and producing oil and gas from the city's Herman Brown Park, Brock Park, parts of Maxey Park and the Public Works Department McCarty Road Service Center.

City Controller Ronald C. Green and Finance Director Michelle Mitchell presented their reports

regarding the current financial status of the city.

"The City of Houston has seen some economic improvement in the past several months reflected in higher sales tax receipts and higher permit revenues that were received in 2010," Mitchell reported.



League City City Council

League City City Council, during a special meeting last week, voted unanimously to authorize Mayor Toni Randall and council members Tim Paulissen and Mike Barber to open discussions with the Glenn Cove Home Owners Association regarding pending litigation.

Mitchell Historic Properties
(409) 763-5806
www.mitchellhistoricproperties.com

Offering retail, office space in historic downtown Galveston

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to award a \$595,850 annual contract to Transit Mix, Inc. of Beaumont for ready mix concrete and related materials.

The city council voted to approve an appeal of a decision by the Historic Landmark Commission to deny a request to demolish a house at 2185 South Street. The appeal was

filed by Dorothy Marshall, the property owner.

El Lago City Council

El Lago City Council, during a workshop last week, discussed the city's proposed 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget and 2010 Tax Rate.

Taylor Lake Village Council

Taylor Lake Village City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a contract with Green Earth Resources for mowing services for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week unanimously approved the adoption of the 2011 county budget and the 2010 tax rate of \$0.62875 per \$100 valuation.

The commissioners court unanimously approved an order adopting a \$5 Archive Fee requested by District Clerk Latonia Wilson, who said the funds will be used to preserve and restore county records. Collection of the fee will be effective October 1.



The commissioners court also approved a similar fee requested by the county clerk.

Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted 4-1, with County Judge Ron Walker opposed, to approve the county clerk's records archive plan for fiscal year 2010-2011.

The commissioners court voted unanimously to approve a similar fee requested by the district court.

Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court, in a special meeting last week, voted unanimously to appoint Kathy Wootton as human resources director.

Harris County Court

Harris County Commissioners Court, in an emergency meeting last week, voted unanimously to approve a request from the County Clerk's Office for an exemption from bidding requirements for the purchase of new voting machines to purchase machines lost in a recent fire.

Houston ISD School Board

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education voted last week to open a "twilight high school" that will offer alternative, non-traditional school hours for students who are unable to attend school during the regular day and for those students who have dropped out of school.

"This twilight program will serve two different types of students, those that need to make-up hours because they are behind and those that have dropped out and only need one or two courses to graduate," said Superintendent Terry Grier. "But we also hope students across the district will take advantage of the night and weekend hours to take Advanced Placement and other classes."

Friendswood School Board

The Friendswood Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to utilize \$72,213 in bond funding for the purchase of various items.

Port of Houston Authority

The Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority last week authorized a \$512,502 construction contract with Sullivan Land Services, Ltd. for maintenance dredging at Bayport Wharf No. 3 and approved a proposal to host the 2014 American Association of Port Authorities annual conference.

CEO Alec G. Dreyer reported to the commission that there was a slowdown in July container volumes, its leading indicator cargo, but said that there was a consistent and strong improvement in its lagging commodities, particularly steel.

"The good news for our local economy is that container tonnage is up a strong eight percent year to date," Dreyer said.

Port of Lake Charles

The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District Board of Commissioners, during a special meeting last week, received the resignation of Commissioner Mark Abraham, who had served on the board for more than seven years.

"While I still have eight months remaining on my appointment to the port board, I believe I can best serve our community and all of Southwest Louisiana by resigning from the board effective immediately," Abraham said in a statement he submitted to the board. "I am doing this so that a minority representative can be immediately appointed to the position of commissioner by the Governor as my replacement."

Port Freeport Commission

The Port Commission of Port Freeport recently elected new officers, and named Thomas S. Perryman as chair.

Bill Terry was elected vice chair, Paul Kresta as secretary and J. M. Lowery as assistant secretary.

Port of Beaumont

The Board of Commissioners of the Port of Beaumont Navigation District last week voted unanimously to approve the FY 2010/2011 Budget and the tax rate to support the budget.

College of the Mainland

The College of the Mainland Board of Trustees last week voted 5-2, with Nick Stepchinski and Don Criss opposed, to accept a 2010-2011 Operating Budget of \$32,007,219 for the college.

Houston METRO

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County last week voted unanimously to authorize Interim President and CEO George Greanias to commit to host agency responsibilities for the 2014 American Public Transportation Association Annual Meeting and Exposition.

The board was briefed by Greanias on FY2011 Strategic Priorities, Operating Principles and Organization, as well as the schedule of presentations and meetings regarding the FY2011 Operating and Capital Budgets.

The Guidry News Gazette

The Guidry News Gazette is the free newspaper published by Guidry News Service.

Providing a concise review of the past week's news, the Guidry News Gazette also provides a preview of the next week's meetings, events and entertainment opportunities.

The Guidry News Gazette is published each Monday as a PDF document that may be downloaded from the Front Page of GuidryNews.com.

The newspaper may be printed and distributed with no additional permission required.

"Please feel free to share the Guidry News Gazette with your co-workers, customers, guests and other visitors," said Jim Guidry, publisher.

Deaths

Mark Brian Wichlep (45) of Galveston, passed away Friday, September 3, 2010, at his residence.

Lisa Michelle Black Lazare (43) passed away Sunday morning, August 29, 2010.

Meetings and Events

Monday, September 6
Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7

8:30 **Port Arthur City Council**
12:00 **Rotary Club of Texas City**, Nessler Center Captain's Room. Mark Ciavaglia will speak on property taxes
1:30 **Jefferson County Commissioners Court**
1:30 **Beaumont City Council**
6:00 **Jamaica Beach City Council**
6:00 **State Highway 6 South Public Meeting**, Santa Fe High School Cafeteria, 16000 Highway 6, Santa Fe
6:00 **Webster City Council**
6:30 **Bayou Vista City Council**
7:00 **Clear Lake Shores City Council**
7:00 **Seabrook City Council**
7:30 **Pasadena City Council**
7:30 **A Behanding in Spokane**, Alley Theatre

Wednesday, September
Erev Rosh Hashanah

8:30 **Galveston County Commissioners Court**
9:00 **Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Operations Committee Meeting**
10:00 **Galveston City Council**

Public Hearing

5:00 **Galveston College Board of Regents**

6:00 **Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees**

6:30 **Galveston County Mayors and Councilmembers Association**, Clear Lake Shores, Jarboe Park Pavilion

6:45 **Kemah City Council Joint Meeting with the Kemah**

Community Development Corporation

7:00 **Kemah City Council**

7:30 **A Behanding in Spokane**, Alley Theatre

7:30 **The Doctor's Dilemma (Preview)**, Main Street Theater - Rice Village

Thursday, September 9

Rosh Hashanah

10:00 **Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Future Program Committee Meeting**

12:00 **Galveston City Council Workshop**

12:00 **Houston Downtown Management District**

12:00 **Rotary Club of Texas City**, Nessler Center Captain's Room.

4:00 **Galveston City Council**

6:00 **State Highway 6 South Public Meeting**, Church of the Harvest, 7505 Wilson Drive, Manvel

7:00 **La Marque Independent School District Board of Trustees**

7:00 **Santa Fe City Council**

7:30 **A Behanding in Spokane**, Alley Theatre

7:30 **The Doctor's Dilemma (Preview)**, Main Street Theater - Rice Village

8:00 **Incorruptible**, College of the Mainland Community Theatre

Friday, September 10

Shabbat Shuvah

7:30 **Evita**, Beaumont Community Players at McFadding Ward Theatre

7:30 **The Beverly Hillbillies**, Port Arthur Little Theatre

8:00 **A Behanding in Spokane**, Alley Theatre

8:00 **Incorruptible**, College of the

Mainland Community Theatre

8:00 **Ronan Tynan**, The Grand 1894 Opera House

8:00 **Proof**, Stage Door, Inc.

8:00 **The Doctor's Dilemma (Preview)**, Main Street Theater - Rice Village

Saturday, September 11

2:30 **A Behanding in Spokane**, Alley Theatre

7:30 **Evita**, Beaumont Community Players at McFadding Ward Theatre

7:30 **The Beverly Hillbillies**, Port Arthur Little Theatre

8:00 **A Behanding in Spokane**, Alley Theatre

8:00 **Incorruptible**, College of the Mainland Community Theatre

8:00 **Proof**, Stage Door, Inc.

8:00 **The Doctor's Dilemma (Preview)**, Main Street Theater - Rice Village

Sunday, September 12

2:30 **A Behanding in Spokane**, Alley Theatre

2:30 **Incorruptible**, College of the Mainland Community Theatre

2:30 **The Beverly Hillbillies**, Port Arthur Little Theatre

3:00 **Proof**, Stage Door, Inc.

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. Call (409) 763-NEWS (6397) or email News@GuidryNews.com.

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