

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF BAYVIEW, TEXAS
104 S. San Roman, Bayview, Texas
September 10, 2018**

Elected officials present: Mayor Paris, Alderman Steenbock, Alderman Lewis, Alderman Heinz and Alderman Najera.

Elected officials absent: Mayor Pro Tem Mark Mullendore

Special Meeting

1. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen was called to order by Mayor Paris at 6:30 p.m.
2. Mayor Paris led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mayor Paris welcomed everyone in attendance and advised them that the Executive Session may be lengthy in which they may want to leave and come back. He also stated that the State Operation Center is putting out information about heavy potential rainfall in this area for this weekend due to the tropical storm that's entering the Caribbean.
4. *Public comments and announcements:* Mayor Paris stated, "this is now the opportunity for our citizens to address the Town Council on matters relating to Town business, issues, concerns or interests, including any items that are on the agenda. Speakers are required to state their names for the record and to limit their comments to three minutes. Note: State law does not permit the Mayor/Aldermen to discuss debate or act on items that are not on the agenda. Persons making comments and announcements may be referred to Town Staff for follow up or to have items placed on the agenda for a future town meeting." There were no comments or announcements.

12. Discussion and possible action approving or rejecting the Spectrum Contract for internet services. At this time Mayor Paris read the following statement: "As the town's budget officer, it is my responsibility to identify fraud, waste, or abuse of our town's financial resources. I would like to bring to the Board's attention the potential for waste of funds on approving a 3-year contract with Spectrum for internet service. Our satellite internet provider (Exede) has an annual cost of \$850. It should be noted that current service has been adequate to support the Town's internet needs. Even with potential cost sharing with Bayview Irrigation based on memorandum, our annual cost for Spectrum service will be \$2,640. Also, there will be a one-time cost of \$750 to hook up Bayview Irrigation since we are the contract holder. We will be spending 3 times what we currently do for the next 3 years. Having just recently driven around the Town, the condition of our roads are deteriorating due to age and recent adverse weather. It seems to me that approving such an expensive contract for hard wire (hung on poles) commercial internet service for the Town Hall, and as the Spectrum representative stated, no guarantee for future hard wire residential service, is a waste of the Town's financial resources and sets the wrong funding priority." He also advised the Board that we would need a "Sole Source Letter" stating why we aren't having anybody else bid on the contract. After short discussion amongst Aldermen, it was noted that this letter is needed

if the expense will be over \$10,000 per year which it is not. Alderman Steenbock questioned why this was being discussed out of order. Alderman Heinz responded that this contract would have an impact on the 2018-2019 Budget and should be decided upon before that discussion takes place. Alderman Steenbock stated that he felt the current service we have is adequate for now. He continued by expressing that he had a problem with the \$750.00 because he felt that the Bayview Irrigation District needed the service more than we did. He stated that if they need the service, he does not understand why we should be buying the cables that will be going over there. Alderman Heinz stated that the Bayview Irrigation District does not need this as much as the Town does. He continued to advise that the service they have is adequate for them and they are going along with Spectrum to help the Town and help themselves. He also stated that they were also tripling their cost as well and doing the digging to place the cable in which the cable shouldn't be that much of a cost. Alderman Steenbock responded by stating that the statement is contrary to what has been discussed by Alderman Lewis that when one person was on the internet at the Bayview Irrigation District the other could not get on. Alderman Lewis responded: "First I want to talk about the purpose for getting fiber optics. The purpose of providing fiber optics is to provide our employees and volunteers with the tools and service that they need. Historically, high speed internet was a luxury and now it's a necessity. Everything that we are doing now is going on line. I made a simple list for Town Secretary, with this fiber optic she can provide reliable customer service instantly, this will be hard-wired directly to the Town of Bayview; we are not sharing with anyone other than Bayview Irrigation and it comes to us first. With our new website, she'll be uploading documents, movies and pics. It's a nightmare trying to get that done working with GoDaddy. She'll be able to do online training and certifications with her job in the future including election training. She's also working on a newsletter and these are things she can do right now but with great inefficiency. She had to adjust her schedule as we all do to work with the internet plus it's slow. The inspector used to live in Laguna Vista where he had high fiber optic internet service. He works for South Padre Island during the day, gets home and works for us. This man gets maps, drawings, plans, forms, and documents. He gets them for himself, for the secretary and our Town. He can do that right here at the Town Hall. The Bookkeeper can do her workbooks and I want to add online training for all employees as well as myself, the EMC (Emergency Management Coordinator). I have requisitions, reporting and webinars. Right now, I use my phone, but we can have webinars where I dial up on our reliable service, hopefully when I can't get it at home. I will be able to participate on the conference calls right here from the office. Again, there online training certifications. No longer is FEMA going to provide maps to municipalities, they are going to provide electronic versions via the internet. The Building and Standards Commission Secretary will have the right to use it. She does not use it now because the service is equally as poor here as they are at her house. Bayview Irrigation, they do have a need and a demand for it, but I have asked them to join us in cost sharing the monthly bill. I do not want to do a proportionate over who needs it more, as to who uses it more, how many more employees to we have using it versus how many they have using it or how many hours a day. I just asked them to share it and had the Mayor's permission to do so. Bayview Irrigation District has already passed it and agreed to share with us. Future services: it is possible with -0- guarantee that the residents of the Town of Bayview, if the Town of Bayview gets fiber optic service, could possibly in the future get services. I am asking the Board to consider this for our Town, for our employees and for our Emergency Management situation. Telephone service: Both Bayview Irrigation and Town of Bayview have very unreliable phone service. It is worse for the Bayview Irrigation, they want to press this now but I'm not ready to present it to the Board now. We can buy a phone system and can receive phone service for \$125.00 per month split with Bayview Irrigation Service. We would also have to split the equipment cost, again this is a future possibility. The Spectrum monthly cost is \$424.00, and we

will be sharing this with Bayview Irrigation if the Board chooses to vote for this. Although, it is \$212.00 per month, it is \$142.00 over per month over what we are currently spending. Can the Town of Bayview for modern services to satisfy all these people afford \$142.00 per month? I don't belittle the cost, I think it's very real, but I think our road budget can suffer this amount of money over the next three years. And if I have to, I would be willing to take it out of the Emergency Management Funds because it is that important for the Town and the safety of the Town and the future of the Town. The reason the cost is so high right now is because we have no infrastructure. Laguna Vista has it, Los Fresnos has it but we don't. Our high cost is because they have to run brand new cables, nodes, lines, wires all kinds of stuff from either Hwy 100 or 510. So, we have a three-year low cost, rather low cost, infrastructure improvement that we can't get anywhere else on a payment plan like this." There was a brief discussion on the use of taxpayer's funds and Alderman Steenbock responded "the original Advalorem Tax was approved by the Board for a limited period of time designated for the roads, the second approval they expanded the verbiage to allow the Town to use the funds for other expenditures. I'm not sure that by collecting the taxes, if by State Law, we are restricted as to what to do with it. I do know that the documents approved started out as road only but then it rolled into a road plus type of expenditure. I can appreciate a lot of these items and I can understand this, however I'm wondering if David is coming in to use this, I know Connie doesn't have a particular use for it. I do know that webinars are very difficult to do other than on high speed and I do think we do have to think about moving into the next century. I wish it could wait another year. If you look at the cost savings, it makes it a little more affordable. I still have a struggle with the \$750 to hook up Bayview Irrigation." Alderman Najera discussed the ways David would be able to use it. Mayor Paris stated that the system we have at this time is adequate for the Town's business. He continued by stating that we don't need to spend three times as much to go to Spectrum and fiber optics are not needed at this time. Alderman Heinz questioned how much the price would drop after the 3-years in which Alderman Lewis responded that we don't know at this time but should drop dramatically to almost what we have or close to it. Alderman Heinz also mentioned that the man from Spectrum stated that if we already wired and had the node to hook up the next person would only cost around \$100 per month; so once the 3-year period is done, the price should drop down to what it is today or much closer to it. Alderman Lewis made the motion that the Town of Bayview approve the contract with Spectrum for 3-years including the cost of \$1,500.00 for installation. Second: Alderman Najera. Opposed: Alderman Steenbock. Three voted yes. Motion carried.

5. Alderman Steenbock made the motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:56 P.M. to go into the Executive Session. Second by: Alderman Heinz. All in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session

6. *Discussion of Employee contracts.*
7. *Discussion of 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget.*

Alderman Heinz made the motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:29 P.M. Second: Alderman Lewis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Special Meeting

8. Mayor Paris recalled the Special Board of Aldermen Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.
9. *Discussion and possible action approving or rejecting Employee Contracts.* Alderman Lewis made the motion to approve the Building Inspector's Contract with the amendment to his compensation for \$833.33 per month, \$25.00 for all re-inspection fees collected and \$166.67 per month for Flood Plain Administrator Management duties. Second: Alderman Najera. All in favor. Motion carried.

Alderman Steenbock made the motion to approve Town Secretary payment to \$14,000.00 per year. Second: Alderman Lewis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Alderman Heinz made the motion to approve the Bookkeeper job description as amended with salary of \$4,500.00 per year. Second: Alderman Steenbock. All in favor. Motion carried.
10. *Discussion and possible action approving or rejecting the July 19, 2018 Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting minutes.* Alderman Najera made the motion to approve the July 19, 2018 Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting minutes as presented. Second: Alderman Lewis. All in favor. Motion carried.
11. *Discussion and possible action approving or rejecting the August 16, 2018 Public Hearing and Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting minutes.* Alderman Heinz made the motion to approve the August 16, 2018 Public Hearing and Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting minutes as presented. Second: Alderman Najera. All in favor. Motion carried.
12. ***Moved to discussion to first part of meeting.***

Alderman Lewis made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 P.M. Second: Alderman Najera. All in favor. Motion carried.

Gary E. Paris, Mayor

Carmen I. Amaya, Secretary

