

**MINUTES
HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY JANUARY 4, 2016**

The Houston City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday January 4, 2016 at Houston City Hall Council Chambers, 601 S Grand Avenue with the following members present: Mayor Don Tottingham, Alderman Joe Honeycutt, Alderwoman Mary Barnes, Alderwoman Sheila Walker, Alderman Don Romines, Alderman David Arthur and City Administrator Larry Sutton, City Clerk Tonya Foster, City Attorney Brad Eidson and Sgt Brad Evans were also present.

Mayor Don Tottingham established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The motion was made by Alderwoman Walker and seconded by Alderwoman Barnes to approve the minutes for the December 21, 2015 regular meeting. Motion passed with five yes votes.

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderwoman Barnes	x			
Alderman Wells				x
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Romines	x			
Alderman Arthur	x			

The motion was made by Alderwoman Walker and seconded by Alderwoman Barnes to approve payment for payroll of December 28, 2015. Motion passed with five yes votes.

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderwoman Barnes	x			
Alderman Wells				x
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Romines	x			
Alderman Arthur	x			

The motion was made by Alderman Romines and seconded by Alderman Arthur to approve payment of invoices for December 30, 31, 2015 & January 4, 2016 (\$168,695.11) as presented. Motion passed with five yes votes.

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderwoman Barnes	x			
Alderman Wells				x
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Romines	x			
Alderman Arthur	x			

Guests: Richard Wood

Mr. Wood wanted to voice his opinion about the trash receptacle ordinance that the board of aldermen is considering passing. He feels his business doesn't have a huge trash problem and that there is not room for a 45 gallon trash receptacle at his drive thru location. Discussed different options with Mr. Wood. Aldermen decided to revisit the ordinance and bring back to the next meeting.

Discussed Bill 122 to become Ordinance 2015-122. (A contract with OzSBI) No action taken. No action taken on Bill 123 to become Ordinance 2015-123 (trash receptacle).

The motion was made by Alderman Honeycutt and seconded by Alderman Arthur to change the shutoff date for nonpayment of utilities to the 15th of the month. Motion passed with three yes votes.

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Barnes		x		
Alderman Wells				x
Alderman Walker	x			
Alderman Romines		x		
Alderman Arthur	x			

Discussed the recommendations of the Chamber lease with Chamber Board they are agreeable to the recommendations. Attorney Eidson will draft an agreement.

Administrator Report

January 4, 2016

1. No damage to city infrastructure from latest flooding
2. Year end budget ended on a positive note. Increase in sales tax for the year made a significant difference.
3. Will be updating/replacing as needed electric meter readers. Originals are beginning to go out (exceeding the useful life span). New hand held reader received last week.
4. Water Dept notified that they must implement a coliform site sampling plan before March 2016. Also, water loss (water ran through meters vs water sold) needs to be addressed. However, DNR did give kudos for improvements city has made since their 2013 inspection.
5. Alderman Wells is recuperating and hopes to attend next council meeting.
6. Mike Sparks recuperating also, he's sounding and feeling better.
7. Received MOPERM insurance bill that was considerably higher than last year. Have asked Lori Moncrief, Mitchell Insurance representative to check on and get back with us.

8. Elaine is preparing letters for home and commercial demolition. Guidelines have increased for homeowners match (Will require \$1000 for homeowners portion), which is still much less than cost to demolish which can run from \$4000 - \$7500.

Addition's to Administrator's Report:

Had a request from Christy Hall to put a RV in her yard at 123 Remington Circle. Her request to live in RV while repair work is being done on her house from a fire over the weekend. City Administrator needs board of aldermen approval to allow this. Was decided to allow her to live in the RV for 90 days while repair work is being done.

The motion was made by Alderman Romines and seconded by Alderwoman Walker to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Motion passed with five yes votes.

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderwoman Barnes	x			
Alderman Wells				x
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Romines	x			
Alderman Arthur	x			

Minutes Taken By

Mayor

City Clerk