

**MINUTES
HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY AUGUST 21, 2017**

The Houston City Council met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 21, 2017 at Houston City Hall Council Chambers, 601 S Grand Avenue with the following members present: Alderman Joe Honeycutt, Alderman Donnie Wilson, Alderman Jeremy St John, Alderwoman Sheila Walker, Alderwoman Viki Narancich, Alderwoman Kim Bittle and City Administrator Tona Bowen, City Clerk Tonya Foster, and Sgt Brad Evans were also present.

Mayor Tottingham established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The motion was made by Alderwoman Narancich and seconded by Alderwoman Walker to approve the minutes for the August 1, 2017 regular meeting. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderwoman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

The motion was made by Alderman St. John and seconded by Alderwoman Walker to approve payment for payroll of August 9, 2017. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderwoman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

The motion was made by Alderman St. John and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve payment of invoices for August 18 & 21, 2017 (\$71,383.23) as presented. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

Guests: Mike Williams, Harley Coulter, Keith Hamilton, Dennis Wilson, Bud Evans, Gary Stroup, Angie Long, Heather Sponsler, Chalky Wells, Brad Gentry, Steve Collins, Gary Parish, Susan Parish, George Sholtz, Jerry Jackson, Allen Moss, Nancy Hardenburg.

George Sholtz asked council the process he would need to follow to have the city purchase a failing business that is located outside the city limits. There is not a step by step process. You would need to present a proposal to council and then different options would need to be looked into.

Nancy Hardenburg asked council if there is a priority concerning utility repairs. Her concern is with an utility pole beside her propane tank. The anchor wire is coming out of the ground. Also the alley behind her house is needing gravel. Mike Williams electric supervisor explained that he has checked the wire and pole and at this time there is no safety issue. Ms. Hardenburg said no one had followed up with her on either issue. Mayor appreciated Ms. Hardenburg bringing this to council's attention and will be looked into.

Bill 111 to become Ordinance 2017-111. An Ordinance setting the 2017 tax levy. (Bill 111 has been posted) The motion was made by Alderman Honeycutt and seconded by Alderwoman Walker to place Bill 111 on first reading by title only. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

Bill 111 to become Ordinance 2017-111. The motion was made by Alderwoman Walker and seconded by Alderman Honeycutt to place Bill 111 on second reading by title only. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

The motion was made by Alderman Wilson and seconded by Alderman St. John to adopt Bill 111 as Ordinance 2017-111. Motion passed with six yes roll call votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

City Administrator discussed the airport hanger project and the police vehicle that is needed. Ms. Bowen spoke with the city's auditor at length about the budget and where the funds for these two items could be paid for. There are funds available without using reserve funds. The city will receive money from a FAA grant on the airport project 2018.

The motion was by Alderman Wilson and seconded by Alderwoman Narancich to approve the purchase of a 2018 ford explorer for the police department at a cost of approximately \$27,396. Motion passed with five yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John			x	
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

The motion was made by Alderman Honeycutt and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve the additional money for the airport project that includes three hangers and a taxi way at an approximate cost of \$74,000 to keep the project on schedule. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

Press Release Policy. City Administrator Bowen handed out a policy on when and what can be talked about to the press. Attorney Eidson suggested shorting the first page of information. The motion was made by Alderman St. John and seconded by Alderman Wilson to accept the proposed press release policy as written. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

Discussed the trash contract that the city has with WCA. The city can extend the current contract for one year with WCA. WCA offered to up the administrative fee from 5% to 10%. The motion was made by Alderman Wilson and seconded by Alderman St. John to extend the current contract with WCA for one year. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

The Mayor requested a donation for the city golf tournament that was held in August. The city has donated to this in the past.

The motion was made by Alderman Wilson and seconded by Alderwoman Bittle to deny the request. Motion passed with five yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt		x		
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderwoman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderwoman Bittle	x			

City Administrator report:

Houston City Council
Monday, August 21, 2017
Administrator Report

This has been a busy time with lots of activity.

I have prepared for the Hearing about the golf course

I attended the Park Board meeting and court.

I plan to attend Park Board monthly you have a copy of the Board minutes in your packets.

I have worked with Healthy Schools Healthy Communities on the restroom and on the Wee Saw which will be requested in the 2018 budget.

Scott twisted his knee in a ditch and has been out for a few days. During that time I rode with Mike to see how electric meters are read. We discussed there are other options that may take significant dollars but in the end could save us time and energy. Next month there will be a presentation on a platform that would allow readings to be taken from City Hall. This would also allow for electric to be turned on from City Hall.

Tonya and Heather will be attending the Clerks meeting this week.

I will be attending a meeting in November with other City Administrators in the area.

The Mayor, Elaine and I have a conference call with FEMA on Wednesday to discuss the list of projects.

The sidewalk work has started. The contractor has until November to finalize the project.

Had a discussion with the accountant on how the budget was written. There are going to be changes this year to many lines. We had a conversation about the Police car and the Airport and we can support the purchases from beginning fund balance. This is not the dollars you see set aside as reserves, this is cash that was not programmed into the budget this year.

We talked about the Trash Contract earlier.

I have made it to all the City buildings.

Jerry has been working to get the screen for the waste water sewer plant. I have received most Job Descriptions back from the management team and now I will get them all laid out the same so they look uniform. I plan to then meet with the personal committee. I also plan to meet with the finance committee and the managers after I review the budget requests. I want to make sure we have the same priorities and long term vision. There was a meeting with SCOCOG, IDA and HDC to discuss bringing a truck driver recruiting business to the town. The company is requesting an EDA grant and CDBG grant. There is a follow up call on this next Monday.

Miscellaneous:

Alderman Narancich asked if it normal to have a cash fund that is not in the budget. Yes fund balance is a good thing. The city has to have a balanced budget. Mayor Tottingham cautioned council on how monies are spent. Alderman St. John asked about city court. Attorney Eidson, Judge Anderson, City Administrator, and court clerk will need to discuss how court is handled to see if changes are needed. Jerry Jackson water/sewer supervisor was asked to explain the water report that is posted annually. Alderman Honeycutt had a suggestion on the use of the disabled police car. Council thought it was a good idea and no legal issues with the idea.

The motion was made by Alderman St. John and seconded by Alderman Wilson to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Motion passed with six yes votes.

	Aye	Nay	Abstaining	Not Present
Alderman Honeycutt	x			
Alderman Wilson	x			
Alderman St John	x			
Alderman Walker	x			
Alderman Narancich	x			
Alderman Bittle	x			

Minutes Taken By

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk