

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association (WGIPOA)

The WGIPOA meeting was held on February 27, 2021 by zoom. The meeting was called to order by Jerry Mohn, President at 9:00 AM. A quorum was established by the attendance of Rosemarie Gonzalez - Acapulco Village, Dick Kuriger – Pirates Beach & Cove, John Lightfoot- Point San Luis, Peggy Zahler-Spanish Grant Beach, Jennelle Tanner-Point West, Julie Greenwell- Sea Isle, Barbara Hankins – Sportsman Road, Craig Vance - Terramar, Dan Walsh- Spanish Grant Beach, Tony Nims – Dines of West, Steve Kendziera – Jamaica Beach, and Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach, and Susan Gonzales representing Isla Del Sol.

Motion by Dick Kuriger and seconded Peggy Zahler, the board approved the minutes of January 16 and January 31 financials.

**This was a virtual Zoom meeting that can be seen at:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/dcpc28zntz13v0u/zoom_0.mp4?dl=0**

Jerry Mohn introduced Galveston Mayor Craig Brown and his presentation is:

Mayor of Galveston: Dr. Craig Brown explained what happened with the power and water outages.

Jerry thanks for having me and good morning to everyone I'm just going to go through that kind of synopsis of where we were and what we're going through here and give you some ideas of what the city can do to assist you coming up in the future in these unprecedented times with the pandemic, the storms and now this winter storm issues. It started at 2:00 a.m. Monday morning. Mayor Craig Brown discusses the latest on the city's attempts to repair damage from winter storms, which include major power outages and a boil water advisory for nearly 7 million people in Texas. We thought we were told by CenterPoint prior to this event that we would probably be in a rolling blackouts type situation so when the power went down, we thought it would be a rolling blackout as time went on that was not happening. The first thing we did was to sign a disaster declaration, which allows us to apply for state and federal funds. Manager Bryan Maxwell and our director of emergency management stayed at the city, the three of us stay in constant contact and continue to make decisions. Thanks to Marissa Barnett our public information officer who continually got information out as quickly as possible. I immediately got on the phone with CenterPoint visiting with them as I saw that this thing was not an hour or two rolling black out. Bryan Maxwell and I talk with CenterPoint we couldn't get a lot of information from them, and at one point told me that they shut down the city by 90% because it was a bigger bang for their buck instead of doing rolling blackouts. We voiced our concerns against this, but it fell on deaf ears they were pointing fingers at EPCOT. So we contacted our state representative and others and anybody that I could visit with trying to get some type of resolution. I drafted letter to the governor requesting assistance. We also filed a written testimony to be presented to Legislators. The homes were not equipped for the freezing conditions. Water went down due to freeze and broken pipes. We kept staff overnight. Forty percent (40%) structures had leaks in homes and businesses. It

drained our tanks almost immediately. We don't have a water source; our water comes from Gulf Coast Water Authority. This all happened quickly and we suspect about 40% of all structures on the island had water leaks. We worked on getting water and electricity back up. We knew due to the leaks that once water came back, we needed to get our staff out to shut off water at homes to stop the flooding damage. CenterPoint again promised me without a doubt that those individuals that went down first would be the first to come back online when they turned it back on that was not the case. I don't have to tell you that because you experienced that was the case in many areas downtown or down in the east they didn't come back first. Once the water came back, we immediately went into the boiling water noticed that's mandated by the Texas commission of environmental quality. Once our pressures on our water drops below a certain level, we are mandated to post notice. We linked up with a Gulf Coast water authority who sells the water they started pushing extra water to us we normally get 10-12 million gallons a day here on the island. They began pushing 28, million gallons a day to get our tanks filled as quickly as possible. On the water situation we moved quickly as the state required us to have our water tested before we could use it, but we saw very quickly that those testing sites around state were inundated from cities all over the state trying to get the water tested and we were told that it probably take at least a week for us to get our results back before we could use the water. We got with UTMB and TCEQ. to get another testing site, so we were able to get the water back on without boiling. This was a horrible experience for all of us. Working with Rep Middleton and Senator Taylor concerning obtaining plumbing supplies. Walmart was contacted. Many plumbing companies have been going out of state to get supplies.

Also order to pay the distributors must allow a payment plan. Looking to the Legislators to address this situation so that it never happens again. The city will not charge you for February, so just pay your January bill. I mention I wanted to see if we could get some continuous support for the West end, especially with the infrastructure and response after hurricane as you know the storms we went through, city was down here working diligently to get roads open and things like that on our agenda coming up Tuesday we will be discussing at the end industrial development corporation we're going to discuss the concept of setting aside plans and money for remediation of beaches in cleanup down on this West end. We are re-drawing the lines of each district this is mandated by the federal government and it happens every 10 years in response to the census we will be getting our census figures.

City Council Member Marie Robb: District 6 Happenings: Marie reviewed the freeze and power outage situation the week of February 15. She was not happy with the City's response to the west end as well as the power company, CenterPoint Energy. She feels since the west end are mostly weekenders, it was the last to receive any attention. She praised City Manager Brian Maxwell in his helping the west end.

Marie went well above the call of duty in what she did for the west end. She purchased from out of state various plumbing supplies. She has these available for west end residents seeking plumbing supplies through their plumber. If west enders needed plumbing supplies, she had pictures and descriptions and they were available to residents and

plumbers free of charge. Marie also made available 2 pallets of water for the west end that was distributed at the Sea Isle fire station.

Christine Hopkins: Christine reviewed the book, “100 Things to Do in Galveston Before You Die”, that she co-wrote with Heidi Lutz. The book is divided into sections: Food and Drink; Music and Entertainment; Sports and Entertainment; Culture and History; and Shopping and Fashion. A very entertaining book.

Christine also discussed Galveston artist Doug McLean, who has spent more than three years sculpting his creation of the long-lost Pompeo Coppini plaster study, circa 1904, depicting the victims and survivors of the 1900 storm and where you can donate funds for it.

Texdot: Joel Clark from Texdot reviewed the program and progress on the repaving and construction of FM 3005, which is anticipated to be completed in April 2021. The presentation is:

Fm3005Presentatio
n20210227.pptx

Meeting adjourned: 10:45 AM

Note: Next meeting will be a virtual Zoom on March 20 starting at 9:00 AM with Artist Boat talking about their fabulous programs and the West End Realtors including Kelly Kelley ReMax, Sand ‘N Sea, and Gary Greene Better Homes & Garden to hear about the “hot” real estate market for the west end.