The City Council of the City of Seabrook met in regular session on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss, consider and if appropriate, take action on the items listed below.

THOSE PRESENT WERE:

GLENN R. ROYAL	MAYOR
ROBERT LLORENTE	COUNCIL PLACE NO. 1
MIKE GIANGROSSO	COUNCIL PLACE NO. 2
GARY JOHNSON	COUNCIL PLACE NO. 3
DON HOLBROOK	COUNCIL PLACE NO. 4
THOM KOLUPSKI	COUNCIL PLACE NO. 5
LAURA DAVIS	MAYOR PRO TEM & COUNCIL PLACE NO. 6
KELLY TEMPLIN	CITY MANAGER
GAYLE COOK	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
STEVEN L. WEATHERED	CITY ATTORNEY
MICHELE L. GLASER	CITY SECRETARY

Mayor Royal called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the audience in the United States and Texas Pledges of Allegiance.

1.0 INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR VARIOUS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

1.1 Interview candidate for the Ethics Review Commission. (Council)

Mayor Royal introduced Barbara Clemmons as an applicant.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Presentation of the City of Seabrook Audit for FY 2011/2012. (Auditors/Lab)

Stephanie Harris, Auditor for Belt Harris Pechacek presented a brief synopsis of the annual audit stating that the company issued a clean, unqualified opinion, which is the highest recommendation a city can receive. Mr. Templin announced that the savings realized from the recent refinancing of the city's bond debt was $670,000. Ms. Harris stated that this savings will be reflected in the 2013 audit.

2.2 Presentation of the UH-Clear Lake Liberty Bell Project presented by Dion McInnis and Dr. Jim Benson. (Johnson)

Representatives made the presentation stating that the purchase and installation of a full-scale replica of the Liberty Bell from the original casting foundry will be the first step in developing a civics education project.

2.3 Presentation of the Open Space & Trails quarterly report. (Committee member)

Chairman Helen Burton gave the quarterly report of the committee's recent activities including: 1) Application for a grant to extend the trails system; 2) Planting of donated trees from TXU and Sally Antrobus; 3) Conduct of a work day at Carothers; 4) Assistance in staffing the open houses at Carothers; 5) Assistance to the Girl Scouts in labeling the plants at Robinson Park; 6) Development of the Natural Playground at Pine Gully Park, including soliciting $13,000 in donations; and 7) Planning an open house at the Natural Playground to be held on April 7. Mrs. Burton thanked the public works staff for its assistance. Council members complimented members of committee and staff for their hard work.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no objections to Mayor Royal's recommendation that applicants for hotel tax funding be permitted to speak during Agenda Item 6.2.

Robbie Sabin of the Lucky Trail Marathon presented a plaque to Council for its support of the event.

Julie Laverelll, Society of St. Stephen, told about the group's mission to provide emergency assistance and a food pantry to residents in the 77586 zip code.

3.1 Mayor, City Council and/or members of the city staff may make announcements about city/community events. (Council)

Council members announced several upcoming events.

4.0 BID AWARDS

4.1 Recommendation to accept proposal from Insituform Technologies Inc. in the amount of $113,820.10 to rehabilitate the 8-inch sanitary sewer mains on Killdeer Dr. and North Heron Dr. through the BuyBoard. This is a budgeted item. (Chairez)

Motion was made by Councilor Holbrook and seconded by Councilor Giangrosso

To approve the proposal as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Accept the Audit Report for FY 2011/2012. (Lab)

5.2 Approve an excused absence for Councilor Robert Llorente for the March 5, 2013 Council meeting. (Glaser)

5.3 Approve minutes of the March 5, 2013 regular City Council meeting. (Glaser)

5.4 Approve Community Development Report for February 2013. (Landis)

5.5 Approve Public Safety Report for February 2013. (Holomon)

Motion was made by Councilor Llorente and seconded by Councilor Johnson

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Consider appointment to the Ethics Review Commission. (Council)

Motion was made by Councilor Holbrook and seconded by Councilor Davis

To appoint Barbara Clemmons as an alternate member of the Ethics Review Commission. (Note: Term will expire October 31, 2014.)

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

6.2 Review and consider the allocation of HOT (hotel tax) funds for Seabrook events. (Dearman)

LeaAnn Dearman, Director of Communications explained that a committee had been formed to review the applications and make recommendations for funding with input from Seabrook hotel and Bed and Breakfast owners.

Mayor Royal recused himself for a portion of this item and left the table. Mayor Pro Tem Davis conducted this portion of the meeting.

YACHTY GRAS

Ms. Dearman stated that the organizers have requested an increase in funding from $2,500 to $10,000; however the committee recommended that funding remain at $2,500.

Motion was made by Councilor Holbrook and seconded by Councilor Giangrosso

To approve funding in the amount of $2,500 for Yachty Gras as recommended by staff.

Ayes: Davis, Giangrosso, Holbrook, Johnson, Kolupski, Llorente.
Recused and not voting: Royal.

MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

SALTWATER DERBY

Ms. Dearman stated that the committee recommended that funding of the Saltwater Derby remain at $5,000 if the event is expanded to two days in time for the 2014 event and if a committee is formed to organize the event instead of staff. Councilor Giangrosso recommended that marketing be increased to target out of town attendees who will be more likely to stay in Seabrook hotels.

Motion was made by Councilor Holbrook and seconded by Councilor Llorente

To approve $5,000 for the Saltwater Derby with the conditions that a committee is formed to organize the event and that the event is increased to two days in the future with the committee and plan to be approved by the city before funding is released. This approval is provisional and may be reassessed during the budget process.

Councilor Kolupski stated that he is concerned about the city using hotel tax funds when the event has failed to increase overnight hotel stays.

Motion was made by Councilor Holbrook and seconded by Councilor Llorente

To amend the original motion by reducing the funding to $2,500.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis stated that she did not agree with requiring changes to the event while reducing the funding. Councilor Davis and Mr. Templin explained that this event originated as a city event as it was handled by the Special Events Committee. After Council dissolved the committee, volunteers and city staff have tried to continue the event.

Ayes: Kolupski.
Nays: Davis, Giangrosso, Holbrook, Johnson, Llorente.
Recused and not voting: Royal.

THE AMENDMENT FAILS.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis called for a vote on the original motion.

Ayes: Davis, Giangrosso, Holbrook, Johnson, Llorente.
Nays: Kolupski.
Recused and not voting: Royal.

ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

At this time, Mayor Royal returned to the Council table and resumed his position of chair.

LUCKY TRAILS MARATHON

Ms. Dearman stated that the committee had recommended that the funding increase from $15,000 to $25,000, with the recommendations that the event is expanded to three days, children's events are added, that the organizers reach out to more Seabrook hotels for additional lodging options and that advertising be increased to include radio and TV. The committee also asked that next year's application include a marketing report, a complete budget report and samples of all marketing materials.

Motion was made by Councilor Giangrosso and seconded by Councilor Davis

To increase funding to the Lucky Trail Marathon to $25,000.

Event Organizers, Robbie Sabban and John Loch stated that they did not think expanding the event to include Friday would be effective as it is a working day. In addition, they stated that it would not be advisable to increase attendance until the trails were expanded. Currently the event attendance is capped at 1,400 as additional attendees create overcrowding on the trails which would lead to dissatisfied runners. Mr. Sabin stated that with the increased funds, he could increase marketing as requested by the Committee.

Councilor Davis asked the city attorney if hotel tax funds could be used to expand the trails. Mr. Weathered stated that he would have to do research to provide an answer. Mr. Templin stated that it would be difficult to extend the trails across Red Bluff Road without TxDOT and Harris County assistance.

Mrs. Glaser clarified with Council that the motion did not include the recommendation of expanding the event by days or by number of attendees.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

KEELS AND WHEELS

Ms. Dearman stated that the committee had recommended that the funding remain at $50,000 with the recommendations that the applicant include a marketing report, budget report, samples of all marketing materials with the next application and collaborate and communicate with all Seabrook hoteliers. Organizer Bob Fuller stated that many attendees will arrive from out of state and from foreign countries.

Motion was made by Councilor Kolupski and seconded by Councilor Holbrook

To approve funding of $50,000 with the committee's recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

TEXAS OUTLAW CHALLENGE

Ms. Dearman stated that the organizer requested an increase in funding from $7,500 to $30,000; however the committee recommended a decrease in funding to $5,000. Other committee comments were that as the event is for profit, no mention was made as to whether any of the excess funds went to charity. The committee also noted that marketing is limited to local advertising. The committee has requested complete budget and marketing reports, information about other sponsors and more information about hotel stays during the event.

Councilor Johnson disagreed with the current funding amount, stating that Council had increased funding to $12,500 for 2012/13. Ms. Dearman stated that the applicant had reported funding of $7,500 for 2012/13.

Mr. Robinson stated that he had submitted a report after last year's event giving much of the information requested. He gave the following information about the event. The Outlaw Challenge is the fourth largest event of this type in the United States. Profits in the amount of $5,000 were given to charities last year. Approximately 200 boats will participate this year, with approximately 80 percent of those boats coming from out of town. This event includes and encourages family participation.

Councilor Giangrosso stated that he did not receive information from the hotels that overnight stays had increased due to the event. Mr. Robinson stated that metrics on hotel stays were difficult to collect. Councilor Kolupski stated that he had received verbal reports from hoteliers that the hotels were full for the event. Mayor Royal and Councilor Johnson agreed. Councilor Kolupski also stated that with the exception of JFest, no other applicant provided information about hotel stays.

In answer to a question from Councilor Davis, Mr. Robinson stated that in addition to the Cities of Seabrook and Kemah, major support is provided by boating manufacturers. Councilor Davis also restated the committee's concerns that the event is for profit, that the event is not very family friendly and that the event does not portray a positive image of Seabrook. Councilor Giangrosso stated that the city's hotels are full with vacationers, weddings, reunions and for other events as the race takes place in the summer. Councilor Johnson stated that Seabrook is a boating community and this event is appropriate for Seabrook.

In answer to a question from Mayor Royal, Mr. Weathered stated that he was not aware of any problem in using hotel tax funds for profit events.

Motion was made by Councilor Johnson and seconded by Councilor Kolupski

To approve funding in the same amount as last year for $12,500 and request that improved hotel metric information be provided with next year's application.

Councilor Davis asked if the amount of last year's funding could be verified. As it could not be verified at the meeting, Councilors Johnson and Kolupski amended the motion as follows:

Motion was made by Councilor Johnson and seconded by Councilor Kolupski

To approve funding for $12,500 and request that improved hotel metric information shall be provided with next year's application.

Ayes: Royal, Holbrook, Johnson, Kolupski, Llorente.
Nays: Davis, Giangrosso.

AMENDMENT CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

Mayor Royal then called for a vote on the original motion as amended.

Ayes: Royal, Holbrook, Johnson, Kolupski, Llorente.
Nays: Davis, Giangrosso.

MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

SEABROOK FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Ms. Dearman reported that the Committee had recommended that funding remain at last year's level of $15,000. The committee also asked that next year's application include a marketing report, a complete budget report, samples of all marketing materials and direct communication and collaboration with Seabrook hoteliers.

Motion was made by Councilor Giangrosso and seconded by Councilor Davis

To approve funding in the amount of $15,000 as recommended by the committee.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

J-FEST SOUTHWEST

Ms. Dearman stated that the organizers had requested $12,000 in funding as in the past; however, the committee had recommended funding this event in the amount of $15,000. She stated that this application was outstanding and included all information requested with the exception of the submission of a complete budget. (A marketing budget had been submitted.) It is recommended that a complete budget report of all expenditures be included with next year's application.

Motion was made by Councilor Kolupski and seconded by Councilor Holbrook

To approve funding of $15,000 as recommended by the committee.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

<u>CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE</u>

Ms. Dearman stated that applicants had requested $2,000 - $5,000 in funding. The committee recommended that funding remain at last year's level of $2,000.

Motion was made by Councilor Johnson and seconded by Councilor Llorente

To approve funding in the amount of $2,000.00 as recommended by staff.

Both Mayor Royal and Councilor Davis stated that there was no communication between the applicant and the city as to what the Seabrook's duties and obligations would be as a sponsor, including the city's responsibility to purchase an award. Mayor Royal stated that he did not appreciate receiving a plaque from the City of League City in appreciation of Seabrook's contribution to the event as Seabrook gave funding to the Chamber of Commerce and not to the City of League City. Councilor Davis stated that she did not see any advertising with the City of Seabrook's name. Ms. Dearman also stated that she did not receive adequate information.

Councilor Holbrook stated that he did not think this event promoted overnight hotel stays. Mr. Templin noted that the Seabrook hotels requested that funding remain the same or be increased.

Ayes: Royal, Davis, Giangrosso, Johnson, Kolupski, Llorente.
Nays: Holbrook.

MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

6.3 Consider the contractual rules for Carothers Gardens as it pertains to music. (Royal)

Motion was made by Councilor Giangrosso and seconded by Councilor Holbrook

To discuss this item.

Mayor Royal stated that he placed this item on the agenda because of the concerns of nearby residents. He stated that a nearby citizen had recommended that windows and doors remain closed while music is played. He also asked that renters be informed that they should be considerate of the surrounding residential area.

Motion was made by Councilor Giangrosso and seconded by Councilor Holbrook

That the windows and doors (except for ingress/egress) shall remain closed when music is played and that the renter be asked to be considerate of the surrounding residential area.

Mr. Templin stated that Ms. Rollins stresses these points to every renter. He also reminded Council that several events were scheduled under the old agreement that did not require that music must be played inside the building.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

7.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

7.1 Consider approval of the Action Items Checklist which is attached and made a part of this agenda. (Council)

Councilor Holbrook asked that the status of some items be amended.

Item #	Status
2	Schedule a meeting of the Carothers Group.
5	Place on council agenda for consideration.
6	Place on council agenda for consideration.
9	First Ad Hoc meeting already held.

Mrs. Glaser stated that Item 6 was scheduled for public hearing on 4/2; however, Item 5 was delayed by staff pending a meeting with a landowner. Mr. Holbrook asked that this explanation be listed under Status.

In addition, Mrs. Glaser stated that it was her understanding that she was to post notice of these meetings. Mr. Weathered stated that it was not required as it was not an official city board, but rather a meeting among three entities of which the city is a participant.

Motion was made by Councilor Holbrook and seconded by Councilor Kolupski

To approve the Action Items Checklist as amended.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

7.2 Establish future meeting dates and agenda items; including establishing date(s) for goal setting work session(s). (Council)

Council was reminded that a goal setting work session had been scheduled on April 30 at Carothers. Council members agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m.

Items for the April 2 agenda include: 1) consider funding for UHCL Liberty Bell project (Davis); and 2) Safety problems associated with drivers traveling south on SH 146 and attempting to make a left hand turn without a traffic signal or turning lane (Johnson).

8.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

Upon motion, Mayor Royal adjourned the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

Approved this the 2nd day of April, 2013.

Laura Davis, Mayor Pro Tem

Michele L. Glaser, TRMC
City Secretary