

REGULAR MEETING – October 6, 2009

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE & ROLL CALL

Councilmember Flood gave the invocation followed with the pledge to the flag.

The City Council of the City of Port Arthur met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 8:40 a.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall, with the following members present: Mayor Deloris "Bobbie" Prince; Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth "Liz" Segler; Councilmembers Morris Albright, III, Martin Flood, Robert E. "Bob" Williamson, Dawana K. Wise and Thomas J. "Tom" Henderson; City Manager Steve Fitzgibbons, City Secretary Terri Hanks, City Attorney Mark T. Sokolow, First Assistant City Attorney Valecia "Val" Tizeno and Sergeant At Arms Chief of Police Mark Blanton.

Councilmember Jack Chatman, Jr. joined the Regular Meeting at 8:45 a.m.
Councilmember John Beard, Jr. joined the Regular Meeting at 9:15 a.m.

II. PROCLAMATIONS & MINUTES

Proclamations

Mayor Prince acknowledged October 5-9, 2009 as "**National Fire Prevention Week**".

Mayor Prince presented the following proclamations:

"National Breast Cancer Awareness Month" – October, 2009

"Mammography Day" – October 16, 2009

"Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" Program Day" – October 20, 2009

Julie Rogers Gift of Life Marketing Coordinator Kathy Chessher appeared before the City Council to accept the proclamation. She announced "Putting on the Pink", a breast cancer awareness event featuring entertainment by Actress Debbie Reynolds, will be held Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at the Julie Rogers Theater.

Julie Rogers Gift of Life Program Representatives distributed cancer prevention educational materials.

"National Arts and Humanities Month" – October, 2009

Councilmember Chatman joined the Regular Meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Minutes

September 8, 2009 Regular Meeting

Upon the motion of Councilmember Albright, seconded by Councilmember Flood and carried unanimously, the City Council approved the above-mentioned minutes.

September 22, 2009 Special Executive Meeting

Upon the motion of Councilmember Albright, seconded by Councilmember Williamson and carried unanimously, the City Council approved the above-mentioned minutes.

III. PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

A. Speakers - None

B. Presentations - None

C. Correspondence - None

Upon the motion of Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Flood and carried unanimously, Proposed Resolution No. 15537 was adopted with the above-stated amendment by the City Attorney, becoming Resolution No. 09-466.

Voting Yes: Mayor Prince; Mayor Pro Tem Segler; Councilmembers Chatman, Flood, Beard, Williamson, Wise and Henderson.

Voting No: None.

The caption of Resolution No. 09-466 reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-466

**A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO GERMER GERTZ,
L.L.P. ACTING AS THE LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE CITY
OF PORT ARTHUR SECTION 4A ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

B. Ordinances

- (1) **P. O. No. 6039 – An Ordinance Pertaining To The Appointment Of An Acting City Attorney And For Providing Transition Thereon**

The City Manager introduced the above-mentioned Proposed Ordinance.

The motion was made by Councilmember Henderson and seconded by Councilmember Williamson that Proposed Ordinance No. 6039 be adopted.

The motion was made by Councilmember Wise and seconded by Councilmember Beard that Proposed Ordinance No. 6039 be adopted with the following amendment:

"Allowing the City Council to move forward with the appointment of Valecia Tizeno as the Acting City Attorney and immediately begin the employment search for a permanent City Attorney."

Assistant City Manager/Administration Rebecca Underhill appeared before the City Council to address inquiries related to employment hiring and advertisement expenses.

The following roll call vote was taken on the motion to amend Proposed Ordinance No. 6039:

Councilmember Beard	"Yes"
Councilmember Chatman	"Yes"
Councilmember Flood	"Yes"
Councilmember Henderson	"No"
Mayor Pro Tem Segler	"No"
Councilmember Williamson	"No"
Councilmember Wise	"Yes"
Mayor Prince	"No"

The motion to amend Proposed Ordinance No. 6039 failed.

Mayor Prince made the following amendment into the record:

That the City Council hereby appoints Ms. Valecia Tizeno as Acting City Attorney at Range 72, Step 1 with a \$160 monthly automobile allowance and a \$40 monthly cell phone allowance.

The motion was made by Councilmember Henderson and seconded by Councilmember Williamson that Proposed Ordinance No. 6039 be adopted with the above-stated amendment.

The following roll call vote was taken on the motion to amend Proposed Ordinance No. 6039 with the above-statement amendment:

Councilmember Beard	"No"
Councilmember Chatman	"Yes"
Councilmember Flood	"Yes"
Councilmember Henderson	"Yes"
Mayor Pro Tem Segler	"Yes"
Councilmember Williamson	"Yes"
Councilmember Wise	"No"
Mayor Prince	"Yes"

The motion to amend Proposed Ordinance No. 6039 carried over the dissenting votes of Councilmember Beard and Councilmember Wise, becoming Ordinance No. 09-73.

The caption of Ordinance No. 09-73 reads as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 09-73

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING CITY ATTORNEY AND FOR PROVIDING TRANSITION THEREON

- (1) P. O. No. 6039 – An Ordinance Pertaining To The Appointment Of An Acting City Attorney And For Providing Transition Thereon**

The City Manager re-introduced the above-mentioned Proposed Ordinance.

The motion was made by Councilmember Wise and seconded by Councilmember Williamson to amend Proposed Ordinance No. 6039 with the following amendment:

"That the cap on the reimbursement as to accrual of sick time is removed as it pertains to Mark Sokolow."

Human Resources Director Albert Thigpen appeared before the City Council to state that the amendment is included in the Proposed Ordinance.

Councilmember Wise and Councilmember Williamson withdrew their motions to amend.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR REQUESTED REPORTS

Councilmember Beard:

1. Requested a listing of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program's property acquisition locations.
2. Requested acquiring a subscription to the REDI (Regional Economic Development Initiative) Newsletter.
3. Requested a report on the Downtown Revitalization Board organizational structure.
4. Requested information on the Water Utility Fund and costs for subsidizing water rates.
5. Requested a report on prospective Boardwalk Projects.

Councilmember Chatman:

1. Requested a Weed and Seed Grant final report and a surplus equipment report.