

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER MEETING ROOM, 16327 LAKEVIEW, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

**A. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Erskine at 6:02 p.m. with the following present:**

Mayor, Rod Erskine	City Manager, Mike Castro, PhD
Council Member, Justin Ray	City Secretary, Lorri Coody
Council Member, Harry Beckwith III, PE	
Council Member, Sheri Sheppard	
Council Member, Jill Klein	

Council Member Place 2 is Vacant.

Staff in attendance: Mark Bitz, Fire Chief; Danny Segundo, Director of Public Works; Christian Somers, Building Official; and Deborah Capaccioli-Paul, Engineering Technician.

Isabel Kato, Finance Director, was not present when this meeting was called to order, but arrived while the meeting was in progress at 6:37 p.m.

**B. Receive and discuss presentation regarding the City's efforts to establish a Community Rating System (CRS).**

Rod Erskine, Mayor, introduced the item by giving a brief overview of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The Mayor completed the overview by asking that residents:

1. Encourage leaders in all levels of government to support a pending bill that will defer the financial impact of the Biggert-Waters Act until further information can be gathered;
2. Support efforts to update flood plain maps; and
3. Investigate what we as a City can do under the CRS system to get better insurance ratings that result in discounts.

The Mayor then turned the floor over to Public Work's Director, Danny Segundo who gave a PowerPoint Presentation concerning the CRS System.

Mr. Segundo began the presentation with a history of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. He explained the Act and what is going to change as a result of its passage.

He then explained the CRS Program, including the goals and benefits of such a program. He told Council that the program is divided into 19 recognized activity areas that fall into four categories as follows:

1. Public Information – includes seven sub-activities;

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2. Mapping and Regulations – includes five sub-activities;
3. Flood Damage Reduction Activities – includes four sub-activities; and
4. Warning and Response – includes three sub-activities.

*Finance Director, Isabel Kato, joined the meeting in progress at 6:37 p.m.*

Mr. Segundo walked Council through each of the four areas, explaining that each area has an established point system. He told Council, for each area wherein the City accomplishes goals/requirements established by the CRS system, the City is awarded a certain number of points. All of the points for each category are totaled and depending upon the final score it is possible to receive better insurance ratings that result in discounts for residents.

Mr. Segundo explained that as a result of work already done or work that can be done, a preliminary review of staff projects that the City may qualify in Class 8 which could result in a 10% reduction in rates under the CRS System.

Mr. Segundo went on to explain the steps facing the City for moving forward with the CRS System which are as follows:

1. Continue to evaluate the CRS;
2. Identify plan/credits;
3. CRS Checklist;
4. Staff to work in stages;
5. Process/ FEMA Visit; and
6. Realistic expectations/limits w/ CRS program.

Council engaged in discussion about the work involved in achieving results under this CRS program. It was noted that there are over 900 homes involved, which affects over 40% of the City. It will be a considerable undertaking. There will be tasks that can be done with the current staff and then there will be tasks that can only be achieved with the help of outside help. It was the consensus of Council that if the City can move into a higher class resulting in a 15% reduction in rates by hiring outside help, than this is something that should be considered.

Discussion was had about what is the highest achievable reduction that the City can expect. City Manager Castro explained that the Program provides for rate reductions ranging from 5% to 45%. Most Communities will be in the 5 to 15% range.

City Manager Castro explained that with the current staff, the 10% objective is doable; however, if the desire is to achieve greater results, additional help will be needed. Currently, staff is faced with the expansion of US Highway 290 and the Comprehensive Plan.

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The consensus of Council was that the FEMA review will bring more information. Staff estimated that the review will take place at least six (6) months from now. The goal between now and then is to achieve 10% with possible “reach goals” and if the “reach goals” need outside help staff will come to Council with a request to approve same. The “reach goal” is to get to 15% by the six (6) month meeting.

**C. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Lorri Coody, City Secretary