

**CITY OF INGLESIDE ON THE BAY**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 3, 2012**

- I. City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gillespie at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Alderman Ehmann gave the invocation.
- III. Mayor Gillespie led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call: Present were: Mayor Gillespie, Alderman Slusher, Merrick, Ehmann, Morgan and Robbins.
  
- V. Minutes of Previous City Council Meeting of December 6, 2011 were approved as written.
  
- VI. Citizen Participation  
Pattey Miller stated her opinions and reasons why she did not want to see a variance given for Block 139A Lot 14.  
Judy Tucker thanked the VFD for their New Year's Eve patrolling.  
Ann Hubby stated her opinion and reasons against the variance.  
Joe Watson stated he hoped the owner asking for the variance was aware he could still be subject to a law suit initiated by any neighbors through the deed restrictions.  
Wayne Jewell stated he agreed with the comments against the variance.
  
- VII. Reports from Standing Committees  
  
Item A: Planning & Zoning had not report.  
  
Item B: Parks & Recreation reported the Light up the Park and Parade was very successful. Thanks were given to the VFD and special thanks went to Wayne Jewell for making the decorations.  
  
Item C: VFD reported patrols were made on New Year's Eve to help prevent fireworks being set off, the radios have been installed in the new truck, Travis Morin has completed and passed the basic certification and a thank you to the Miller's for their donation to the Christmas Dinner for the firemen.
  
- VIII. **New Business:** Discussion and Possible Action  
  
Item A: Approve/Disapprove Variance request for Block 139A lot 14 by Walter Zollars  
Planning and Zoning reported the public hearing and meeting concerning this item was held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, the commission voted unanimously to deny the variance request due to the facts that the buyer knew before the purchase that the lot was less than 50 feet which does not constitute a hard ship.  
Mr. Zollars stated he felt the fact that the lot has been the same size for years before the ordinance was instituted creates a hard ship. The tax roll carried it as a buildable lot. The creation of the ordinance made the hard ship by making the lot less than what it was intended for. He further stated he had copies of the ordinances before he purchased the lot and the realtor did not inform him it was non buildable only that the lot did not meet ordinances, but he was not told it was unbuildable. He was on a time frame to complete the purchase.

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Discussion occurred concerning the fact that when the lots were set up years ago they were considered buildable before ordinances were initiated. The fact that the ordinances follow the Deed Restrictions, the one lot which is less than 50 feet nearby is considered non buildable and the tax rate has been adjusted accordingly also occurred. Alderman Slusher stated the City would want people to build and benefit from the taxes however, the neighbors object along with Planning and Zoning. It is a tough decision.

Alderman Ehmann stated the consensus of others is not to grant the variance, the City does not want vacant lots, houses could be adjusted to fit the lots. No plans have been submitted to build. Does the variance stay with the lot?

Wayne Jewell read a letter received from Mr. Conders, a neighbor, opposing the variance. He stated the ordinances have been around for years before the lot was sold.

Further discussion occurred covering how the Appraisal District listed the lot.

Alderman Slusher made the motion to approve the variance with the understanding no other variances would be given and the variance was not transferable. Alderman Merrick seconded the motion. The motion failed with Alderman Slusher and Merrick voting for the motion and Alderman Ehmann, Robbins and Morgan voting against the motion.

Item B: Approve/Disapprove funds for Neighborhood Watch signs

Joe Watson stated the Ingleside on the Bay City Crime Watch (IOBCCW) is not accepting donations at this time due to the fact that it is not feasible because they do not have a treasurer or a bank account set up. Their plan is to get everyone's attention and notice out that they exist by signs and publications. Everyone needs to be diligent. Discussion occurred including the cost of the signs and where the signs would be placed. Alderman Ehmann made the motion to purchase the signs. Alderman Slusher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item C: Approve/Disapprove naming the VFD Station

Alderman Slusher stated she would like to see Dick and Jo Ann Ehmann honored for all the work they have done and continue to do for the VFD by naming the VFD station for them. Wayne Jewell stated it should be granted by acclamation. Alderman Slusher made the motion to name the VFD Station after Dick and Jo Ann Ehmann. Alderman Robbins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Alderman Ehmann abstaining.

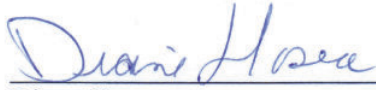
**IX. Reports**

1. Coastal Bend Council of Governments Report was given.
2. Water Agreement with the City of Ingleside was given.

**XI. Mayor Gillespie adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**

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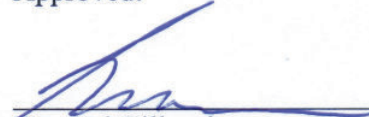
Respectfully submitted & attested:



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Diane Hosea  
City Secretary

Approved:



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Howard Gillespie  
Mayor