

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Tuesday, January 8, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 8, 2013, Mayor Annise Parker presiding and with Council Members Helena Brown, Jerry Davis, Ellen R. Cohen, Wanda Adams, Dave Martin, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Mike Laster, Larry V. Green, Stephen C. Costello, Andrew C. Burks, Jr., C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jack Christie, D. C.; Mr. Harlan Heilman, Division Chief, Claims & Subrogation Division; Ms. Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director present. Council Member Al Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Melissa Noriega absent due to being ill.

At 1:55 p.m. Mayor Parker stated that there were no presentations today and led all in the invocation and pledge. Council Members Laster and Green absent.

At 1:56 p.m. the City Secretary called the roll. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Noriega absent due to being ill. Council Members Laster and Green absent.

Council Members Gonzalez and Burks moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Noriega absent due to being ill. Council Members Laster and Green absent. MOTION ADOPTED.

At 1:57 p.m. the City Secretary began calling the public speakers. Council Members Laster and Green absent.

Ms. Joyce Ballenger, 1008 Herkimer, Houston, Texas 77008 (713-480-9667) appeared and stated that she remembered when the Bible was unsealed on the grounds at City Hall and would like to know where it was taken. Council Members Laster and Green absent.

Mayor Parker stated that Harris County had a Bible on public view outside their administrative building, but there was never a Bible on public view at City Hall, not in her memory. Council Members Laster and Green absent.

Mr. Andrew Patterson, 6207 Fondren, Houston, Texas 77036 (832-276-1712) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Laster and Green absent.

Ms. Patricia Martin, 7065 Bellfort, Houston, Texas 77087 (832-276-6470) appeared, presented information to Council Members and stated that she was speaking regarding her brother who served in the U. S. Military, Danny Lloyd McDonald, he was missing since 1989 on a trip to Austin to bury his mother; and regarding an FBI conspiracy violating her civil and human rights; and continued expressing her personal opinions until her time expired. Council Members Davis, Adams and Laster absent.

Mr. Steven Williams, no address (no phone) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Davis, Adams and Laster absent.

Ms. Deborah Elaine Allen, P. O. Box 263252, Houston, Texas 77207-3252 (713-624-0127) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Davis, Adams and Laster absent.

Mr. William Beal, 4718 Boicewood, Houston, Texas 77016 (no phone) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Davis, Adams and Laster absent.

Mr. Raymond Martinez, Jr., 917 Caplin, Houston, Texas 77022 (281-610-6690) appeared and stated that he was with the International Magicians Society, etc., and was present regarding he and his father making many medical discoveries such as inversion therapy which they used on a Houston Rocket to decompress his spinal cord, the treatment had been around since 300 BC; inversion therapy and a drug over the counter could help alleviate symptoms of Alzheimer; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Member Laster absent.

Mr./Coach R. J. (Bobby) Taylor, 3107 Sumpter, Houston, Texas 77026 (FA3-4511) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Member Laster absent.

Mr. Andrew Patterson, 6207 Fondren, Houston, Texas 77036 (832-276-1712) who was previously not present when his name was called was now present, recalled and appeared and stated that he was present again regarding city and county services and how best to provide them to those with disabilities; that 1 of 35 were considered disabled and the insurance industry was cutting back; that also those in jails needed assistance as they were mentally ill; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired.

Council Member Laster thanked Mr. Patterson for being present.

President Joseph Charles, P. O. Box 524373, Houston, Texas 77052-73 (713-928-2800) appeared and stated that he was the official U. S. President; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired.

Mr. James Partsch-Galvan, 1611 Holman, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-528-2607) appeared and stated that he would be distributing Dorothy Olmos political signs; that last year he was excluded from debates on the public access channel; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired.

At 2:12 p. m. Mayor Parker stated that City Council was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2013. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Noriega absent due to being ill.

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Wednesday, January 9, 2013

The Houston City Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2013, with Mayor Annise D. Parker presiding and Council Members Helena Brown, Jerry Davis, Ellen R. Cohen, Dave Martin, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Mike Laster, Larry V. Green, Stephen C. Costello, Andrew C. Burks, Jr., Melissa Noriega, C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jack Christie, D.C.; Mr. David Feldman, City Attorney; Ms. Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director, and Ms. Stella Ortega, Agenda Office, present. Council Member Wanda Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Al Hoang absent on city business.

At 8:27 a.m. the City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:07 a.m. Mayor Parker called the meeting to order and stated that as everyone was aware they had the Houston Marathon this weekend, which was a premier sporting event for the City of Houston, and as always there were City of Houston employees who would be running the marathon, that Kelly Dowe, Finance Director, hoped to come in well under the 3 hour mark, that William Paul Thomas hoped to finish and Council Member Steve Costello would be running again, that he was a Boston qualifier, that they wanted to wish all good times and a really fast

race on Sunday, that they were hoping that the rain would come through by the end of the week and then clears up by Sunday and then would get colder, that they had become a destination race for those who really wanted to hit the fast times, they had set some course records over the last 2 years and really fast times, that elite runners were lining up and their home grown talent that was going to be out there, that she sincerely hoped that they would have good runs. Council Members Davis and Burks absent.

Mayor Parker stated that the first item on the agenda was the Monthly Financial and Operations Report, and recognized Controller, Ronald Green and Director of Finance, Kelly Dowe. Council Members Burks and Noriega absent.

9:00 A.M. - REPORT FROM CITY CONTROLLER AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE CITY including but not limited to, a revenue, expenditure and encumbrance report for the General Fund, all special revenue funds and all enterprise funds, and a report on the status of bond funds.

Mr. Green and Mr. Kelly reviewed the Monthly Financial and Operations Report, a copy of which is on file in the City Secretary's office for review. Council Members Burks and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Members, Mr. Dowe stated yes, they were anticipating a General Fund overage for the end of the fiscal year and would use those dollars to offset the \$14.1 million negative from the Health Benefits Plan, that he thought that was a great option, that of course they wanted to see a little more revenue come in this year, they only had five months of actuals in the books, that he thought that would be a very prudent use of those funds this fiscal year, and Mayor Parker stated that in addition Council had expressed a desire to complete the refunding of the Rainy Day Fund, that was also a priority, those were both options. Council Members Burks and Noriega absent.

Upon further questions by Council Members Controller Green stated that from their assessment obviously the City had been cutting costs, the Council Members had a yeoman's job over the last few years, they had actually cut costs, but at the same time costs had gone up, there was a balancing act that Council had to do, they had to figure out which areas could withstand more cost cutting and which areas they needed to bring in more revenue, that Mr. Dowe could talk a little bit more about the areas that tended to be going up within the health care system that they had, that one of the things that he thought was going to be important for the Council Members as they began to set the premiums soon, that was why he kept putting the amount in, how much of the cost savings would be between the employees and the City, not just the \$14.1 million reimbursement, but how they apportioned the costs to the employees. Council Member Burks absent.

Mr. Dowe stated that their gap was improving daily with the sales tax, that they saw Comptroller Combs projection at the State level, the trends were just as strong in Houston, so with only five months of actuals in the books it was very hard to say, the picture was improving almost on a daily basis, it was a gap they projected when they brought the budget forward last fiscal year, they were actually in the middle of updating those projections, but he hated to give a gap this early in the year, especially with the assessment of property tax just kicking off. Council Member Burks absent.

Council Member Costello stated that he wanted to remind his colleagues, and the public watching, that they did have a Budget and Fiscal Affairs sub committee meeting tomorrow on health care and the cost of reductions they were trying to pursue, that the meeting was at 10:00 a.m., and these were issues that they would be discussing. Council Member Burks absent.

Council Member Costello moved to accept the Monthly Finance and Operations Report, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. MOTION 2013-0012 ADOPTED.

Mayor Parker stated that the next item on the agenda was the Mayor's Report. Council Member Burks absent.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Update on Status of Ike Recovery Funds Rounds 1 and 2

Mayor Parker stated that it had been a while since Ike, but they were still trying to recover and there were still families that were displaced by Ike that were struggling to get back into their homes, that there had been challenges at the federal and State level and certainly at the local level in getting all of the Ike monies spent, that they were not directly funded by the federal government and that was something that as a City they had advocated for and thought a number of other really large cities in America had done that, but their HUD funding flowed through the State, it previously was through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, that was disbanded and the money was moved into the General Land Office, so there was a significant cultural shift and some delays, that a year ago she worked out an arrangement with HUD, formerly under Secretary Mercedes Marquez, to define a path on how they could better utilize Ike Recovery Monies Round 2, they had some marathon sessions with Apple Seed, Texas Low Income Housing Services, TOPP and others, a lot of the debate centered around whether they should put the money more into single family homes or multi family homes, that she was pushing toward multi family because they could house more people faster, but she also recognized that home ownership was very important and those agencies were pushing them more towards the single family home side, they reached an agreement, again, more than a year ago all of the local stakeholders reached an agreement and part of that agreement was that they would do more single family, but rather than scattershot across the region they would try to focus in some specific neighborhoods where they could have some synergy's and greater impact than just going in and repairing, with these federal grant dollars, individual homes, so for the last year they had been waiting for the General Land Office to agree with what they had worked out locally and last week GLO signed the Ike 2 Contract that would kickoff \$175 million of housing expenditure in the greater Houston area, that they were now going to walk through a quick overview so they would know what they were going to be doing, and recognized Mr. Andy Icken, Director, Chief Development Officer, and Ms. Veronica Chapa Jones, Deputy Director, Housing Department. Council Member Burks absent.

Mr. Icken reviewed a report titled "Mayor's Report, Disaster Recovery Update", a copy of which is in the City Secretary's office for review. Council Member Burks absent.

Mayor Parker stated that it had been a very frustrating process, a very bureaucratic process, there were huge dislocations caused by the changes at the State, but she had to say that at every level today the agencies were working together, they had never had the close working relationship they had today with the Houston Housing Authority, they had forged an excellent working relationship with the General Land Office, which as they could imagine had to ramp up to take over a function that they had never done before and it had slowed the process significantly but as they could see with the success they had over the last year with Round 1 monies they felt confident that they were going to do better with Round 2 simply because of the pain they had gone through in working out the communications and making sure that everybody was on the same page. Council Member Burks absent.

Upon discussion and questions by Council Members, Mr. Icken stated that they would issue to all Council Members a detailed report on exactly what he had stated with the numbers, and Council Member Noriega asked if he had available the ethnic breakdown of who got their

homes fixed. Council Members Rodriguez, Burks and Noriega absent.

Upon further questions and discussion by Council Members, Mr. Icken stated that they had improved substantially on the inspection process, there was a sign off before all completions occurred, that they had improved that over time and learned from their experiences, and Mr. Stephen Tinnermon helped manage that piece; that as to a breakout of administrative and project delivery costs, they were working that out right now and were going to have to use TIRZ dollars for part of the administration of these dollars because there were limitations by GLO and HUD on how many administrative dollars, that they were going to be coming back to Council with that piece and he would lay out the details at that time; that as to all four utilities being affected by this number the Public Works Department was working on that right now as part of the 60 day guideline, that they did not yet have a definition of what that would be, and Council Member Costello asked when they were able to define that he would like to see that as well. Council Member Burks absent.

Mayor Parker stated that this had just been done last week and they wanted to make sure that all Council Members had an opportunity to learn about it, they would be going back to the Housing Committee to go into more detail on this. Council Member Burks absent.

Upon further questions and discussion by Council Members, Mr. Icken stated that one of the critical guidelines on spending money was flood plain presence, they could not spend money in the flood plain, that was part of the rules they were following, and Mayor Parker stated that the majority damage to these homes was wind damage, roofs going off and then rain coming in, rather than being in the flood zones; that they did have more work to do in the area of determining the record title ownership of applicants and understood Council Members concerns; that as to qualifying homes for Round 1 the entire slate had been wiped clear and it was a reset. Council Member Burks absent.

Mayor Parker stated that the Round 1 funding, the allocation between multi family and single family was actually driven by the last administration, that in Round 2 they had the opportunity to set the reset button and sit down with the stake holders and say what did not happen right and where should the monies be allocated. Council Member Burks absent.

After further discussion and questions by Council Members, Mr. Icken stated that he did commit, as part of this process as they went through the 60 days, they would involve all of the Council Members involved in those districts, they needed to get the guidelines together, they were going to sit down with each Council Member and talk about it. Council Members Pennington, Burks and Christi absent.

Mayor Parker stated that this was just the beginning of the dialog on this, it was not the end of the dialog, that she wanted to give everybody the 30,000 foot view quickly, that she appreciated Ms. Chapa Jones and Mr. Icken report; that they would move to the consent agenda. Council Members Davis, Pennington, Burks and Christi absent.

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 15

MISCELLANEOUS - NUMBER 1

1. REQUEST from Mayor for confirmation of the appointment of **PAUL HOMEYER**, to Position Nine of the **HOUSTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON**, for an unexpired term ending March 1, 2013 - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member

Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Davis, Pennington, Burks and Christi absent. MOTION 2012-0013 ADOPTED.

Mayor Parker stated that they just affirmed the appointment of Mr. Paul Homeyer to a position of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission of the City of Houston and asked that he come forward to the podium to be recognized, that he was filling the unexpired term of someone who moved out of town, that she wanted to thank him for choosing to serve the City of Houston and wished him well. Council Members Davis, Pennington, Burks and Christi absent.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS - NUMBER 2

2. **MD HELICOPTERS, INC** for Professional Training Services for the Houston Police Department \$64,845.00 - Police Special Services Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Pennington, Burks and Christi absent. MOTION 2012-0014 ADOPTED.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 3 through 13

3. RESOLUTION adopting the 2013 City of Houston Hazard Mitigation Action Plan - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Burks and Christi absent. RESOLUTION 2012-0001 ADOPTED.
8. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing agreement between the City of Houston and **IBN SINA FOUNDATION, INC** to provide a \$499,572.00 grant of Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds for costs associated with the renovation of a facility, located in the vicinity of 5012 North Shepherd, Houston, Texas, which is to be used as a Community Dental and Diagnostic Imaging Center whose services will benefit low to moderate income households in the northwest Houston area - **DISTRICT H - GONZALEZ** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Burks and Christi absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0012 ADOPTED.
9. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Interlocal Agreement between the City of Houston and **HARRIS COUNTY** for Operation and Maintenance of a segment of North Eldridge Parkway **DISTRICT A - BROWN** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Burks and Christi absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0013 ADOPTED.
12. ORDINANCE appropriating \$239,343.00 out of Street & Traffic Control and Storm Drainage DDSRF as an additional appropriation to Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **PIERCE GOODWIN ALEXANDER & LINVILLE, INC** for Northline Paving from Parker to Canino (Approved by Ordinance No. 2005-0430) - **DISTRICTS B - DAVIS and H - GONZALEZ** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Burks and Christi absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0014 ADOPTED.
13. ORDINANCE appropriating \$12,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund; approving and authorizing Professional Construction Management and

Inspection Services Agreement between the City of Houston and **SHAW ENVIRONMENTAL & INFRASTRUCTURE, INC** for Wastewater and Water Facilities Projects - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Burks and Christi absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0015 ADOPTED.

MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE CONSIDERED AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

4. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing seventh amendment to a Gas Sales Contract between the City of Houston and **CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. dba CENTERPOINT ENERGY TEXAS GAS OPERATIONS** to extend the contract for a term of three days effective January 28, 2013 through January 31, 2013 (Approved by Ordinance No. 89-1230) (Contract No. 29624) - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Burks and Christi absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0016 ADOPTED.
5. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Natural Gas Supply Agreement between the City of Houston and **CENTERPOINT ENERGY SERVICES, INC** to provide natural gas to the City of Houston; providing a maximum contract amount - 3 years with 2 one-year options - \$19,000,000 Central Service Revolving Fund - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Burks and Christi absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0017 ADOPTED.
6. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing agreement between the City of Houston and **CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.** to provide backup natural gas supply to City meters - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Burks and Christi absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0018 ADOPTED.
7. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City and **TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL** for Assessment of Pertussis-Specific Antibodies in Immunization Program; providing a maximum contract amount - 1 Year with two one-year renewals - \$1,500,000.00 - Grant Fund - was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0019 ADOPTED.
10. MUNICIPAL Setting Designation Ordinance prohibiting the use of designated groundwater beneath a tract of land containing 8.864 acres commonly known as 6325 Hurst Street, Houston, Harris County, Texas; and supporting issuance of a Municipal Setting Designation by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - **DISTRICT C - COHEN** - was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0020 ADOPTED.
11. MUNICIPAL Setting Designation Ordinance prohibiting the use of designated groundwater beneath a tract of land containing 0.4490 acres commonly known as 3206 Holmes Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas; and supporting issuance of a Municipal Setting Designation by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS**

- was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0021 ADOPTED.

14. ORDINANCE appropriating \$12,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund; approving and authorizing Professional Construction Management and Inspection Services Agreement between the City of Houston and **ESPA CORP.** for Large Diameter Water Line Construction Projects - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0022 ADOPTED.
15. ORDINANCE appropriating \$931,307.00 out of Metro Projects Construction DDSRF and \$99,793.00 out of Miscellaneous Capital Projects/Acquisitions CP-Series E Fund, awarding contract to **CAAN CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC** for Streetscape Enhancements along Light Rail Lines; setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering and testing services, CIP Cost Recovery, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Metro Projects Construction DDSRF and the Miscellaneous Capital Projects/Acquisitions CP-Series E Fund - **DISTRICT I - RODRIGUEZ** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. ORDINANCE 2012-0023 ADOPTED.

NON CONSENT AGENDA - NUMBERS 16 through 18

MISCELLANEOUS

16. MOTION to set a date not less than seven days from January 9, 2013, to receive nominations for Positions Four, Five, Six and Seven on the **HOUSTON ETHICS COMMISSION**, for two-year staggered terms – was presented. Council Member Burks absent.

Council Member Gonzalez moved to set Wednesday, January 16, 2013, to receive nominations for Positions Four, Five, Six and Seven on the Houston Ethics Commission, seconded by Council Member Pennington. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. MOTION 2013-0015 ADOPTED.

17. MOTION to set a date not less than seven days from January 9, 2013, to receive nominations for Positions One, Two and Three on the **HOUSTON AREA LIBRARY AUTOMATED NETWORK ADVISORY BOARD**, for two year terms – was presented. Council Member Burks absent.

Council Member Gonzalez moved to set Wednesday, January 16, 2013, to receive nominations for Positions One, Two and Three on the Houston Area Library Automated Network Advisory Board, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. MOTION 2013-0016 ADOPTED.

18. RECEIVE nominations for Positions One, Two and Two Alternate At-Large Positions of the **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, for one year terms to expire December 31, 2013 – was presented. Council Member Burks absent.

Council Member Davis stated that he would nominate Council Member Oliver Pennington for Position One of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors.

Council Member Gonzalez moved to close nominations for Position One of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors, seconded by Council Member Noriega. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. MOTION 2013-0017 ADOPTED.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that he would nominate Mayor Annise Parker for Position Two of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors.

Council Member Gonzalez moved to close nominations for Position Two of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors, seconded by Council Member Pennington. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. MOTION 2013-0018 ADOPTED.

Council Member Pennington stated that he would nominate Council Member Ellen Cohen for Alternate At-Large Position of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors.

Council Member Gonzalez moved to close nominations for Alternate At-Large Position of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors, seconded by Council Member Pennington. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. MOTION 2013-0019 ADOPTED.

Council Member Cohen stated that she would nominate Council Member Jerry Davis for Alternate At-Large Position of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors.

Council Member Gonzalez moved to close nominations for Alternate At-Large Position of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors, seconded by Council Member Christi. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. MOTION 2013-0020 ADOPTED.

MATTERS HELD - NUMBERS 19 through 22

19. MOTION by Council Member Gonzalez/Seconded by Council Member Bradford to adopt the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent to award to **VWR INTERNATIONAL, LLC** for Scientific Products for Various Departments - \$4,294,287.00 - General, Enterprise and Other Funds - **(This was Item 7 on Agenda of January 2, 2013, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN)** – was presented. Council Member Burks absent.

After discussion Council Member Brown stated that the breakdown was by department and she wanted to encourage them that perhaps in the future have these RCAs per department that way they had the opportunity to approve and vote yes on those departments purchases. Council Member Burks absent.

Mayor Parker stated that they had an opportunity through the budget process of actually seeing how much in terms of scientific products the department needed, that this was a blanket authority on the contract, it did not determine how much or how little a department would actually spend. Council Member Burks absent.

A vote was called on Item No. 19. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. MOTION 2013-0021 ADOPTED.

20. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use as a public street right-of-way of an 18.5-foot-wide portion of excess Dahlia Street, Harrisburg Addition, Harris County, Texas; vacating and abandoning the right-of-way to Houston Gateway Academy, Inc. and Broadway Baptist Church of Houston, abutting owners, in consideration of their payment of \$17,580.00 to the City and other consideration - **DISTRICT I - RODRIGUEZ – (This was Item 10 on Agenda of January 2, 2013, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ)** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Burks absent. ORDINANCE 2013-0024 ADOPTED.
21. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **DEAN'S NUTRITIONAL FOOD SERVICE INC** for the Houston Parks & Recreation Department's After-School Meal Program; subject to the receipt of sufficient grant funds from the Texas Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program; providing a maximum contract amount 6 Months with 4 one-year options - \$3,350,160.00 - Grant Fund - **DISTRICTS A - BROWN; B - DAVIS; C - COHEN; D - ADAMS; E - MARTIN; F - HOANG; H - GONZALEZ; I - RODRIGUEZ; J - LASTER and K - GREEN – (This was Item 13 on Agenda of January 2, 2013, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURKS)** - was presented. Council Member Burks absent.

Council Members Christi stated that he had questions on the nutritional value of the After School Meal Program for the children and there was excellent supportive data from the administration and Parks and Recreation, that it was excellent nutrition.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that he wanted to thank the Parks Department they did follow up with some information on the bidding process, that he definitely respected the answer, that he was supportive of the item before, that he thought it was important to make sure they were providing these meals, that he wanted to raise awareness that anytime they could try to create opportunities for local vendors was a good thing.

Council Member Davis stated that he wanted to thank his colleagues for supporting this, that one of the sites that it helped out was the Julia C. Hester House, one of the oldest African American Community Centers in the City, that it was in the Fifth Ward area.

A vote was called on Item No. 21. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. ORDINANCE 2013-0025 ADOPTED.

22. ORDINANCE appropriating \$2,500,000.00 out of Dangerous Building Consolidated Fund for Demolition – **(This was Item 15 on Agenda of January 2, 2013, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREEN)** – was presented.

Council Member Green stated that Item No. 22 was going to be critical for districts like his, who were not included in the Ike Recovery Funds, to be able to deal with blighted and dilapidated buildings, that they were able to find out where some of the bottleneck was in regard to some of their requests, whether it be legal or the process, that he thought they had streamlined the process where they would be working with the Department of neighborhoods and Legal to make sure that at least the houses that had been slated for years in District K would be reviewed and hopefully would have the opportunity to be torn down.

Mayor Parker stated that they were getting much better and faster at leaping over the legal hurdles to these demolitions, not the Legal Department, but the legal impediments, that the

Legal Department had been a good partner in that.

Council Member Laster stated that he assumed they were putting some sort of Legislative checklist in that regard, and Mayor Parker requested that Mr. Feldman respond.

Mr. Feldman stated that yes, as a matter of fact Representative Miles reached out to them for some suggestions and they prepared some drafts and submitted them to him, so yes, they were working on it.

A vote was called on Item No. 22. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. ORDINANCE 2013-0026 ADOPTED.

Mayor Parker stated that as they all knew they had a special meeting of the Houston City Council yesterday morning to name a Port Chairman, which meant that there was a vacancy on the City's position for Port Commissioner and they would post next week to receive nominations, that was a Council nomination, that it worked similarly to that for the HCAD nominations that they did earlier today.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Burks stated that he wanted to congratulate the Texans for winning on Saturday; and announced events he attended or would be attending. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez, Noriega and Christi absent.

Council Member Bradford stated that he wanted to continue to be an advocate for After School Programs and out of school time programs, that he frequently talked to Houston Police officers, Sheriff deputies, Constables and other law enforcement professionals in the area and one thing that was consistent was that they were constantly confronting young suspects, whether adolescents, teenagers or young adults that were less respectful for authority, more violent and more likely to be armed today, that he would encourage those of them around the Council table as they start their budget process to look real hard, they spend grant dollars on after school programs, but they spend very little General Fund dollars on after school and summer programs, that they really focus hard on putting more resources into out of school time programs, the City should do more in that area and he would encourage non profit organizations, faith based organizations to do what they could, that he wanted to commend the Parks Department, they were doing a really good job with very limited resources, that he met with Mark Cueva and thought he had the proper perspective to do what he could but had a large challenge and task in front of him given the size of the City and the need that was not being met out there, to the extent that he clearly and fully understood that summer and after school programs or out of school time programs were effective crime prevention strategies and he was really concerned that they must do more in their neighborhood to make it safer out there, for the officers in the field as they confront young boys and girls, that he served for a number of years as a police officer in the field and back in the those days he did not worry to much about a teenager or adolescent taking his life as an officer, but in today's environment the officers were really concerned, and perhaps should be, because they had a population that had grown up and had less respect for authority, that it was one thing to be really aggressive from an enforcement standpoint, but that simply locks up hundreds and hundreds of boys and girls and did not get to the root of the problem. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Christi absent.

Council Member Martin stated that Ms. Vernita Jones lost her mother this past weekend, so he wanted everyone to consider Vernita and her family in their thoughts and prayers; that he wanted to wish good luck to Stephen, William Paul and Kelly on the marathon this weekend; and announced events he attended or would be attending. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez

and Christi absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she knew the Council Member Martin lost his mother last week and stated that her sympathies were with him. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Christi absent.

Council Member Laster stated that he wanted to say congratulations to Sister Jane Myer, OP, Saint Agnes Academy on Bellaire Boulevard, that this week Houston Woman Magazine named Sister Jane as one of the 50 most influential women for 2012; that he wanted to welcome Ahmad Chughtai to the staff of District J, that he would serve as the agenda and policy coordinator, that he was most recently an educator within Houston Independent School District and was also a second year law student at the University of Houston; that he wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Christi absent.

Council Member Costello stated that they would have a special called Budget and Finance Committee meeting on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.; that he wanted to thank everyone for wishing him good luck in the marathon, that this was the first year that he was running for a reason, that he was running for Beau's Place, that it was the only organization in the Houston area providing ongoing grief support counseling for children in the ages of 3 to 18 years old and their families at no charge, that Beau's Place was founded on the belief that grieving children and their families shared their experiences with others in their same situation to assist in the healing process, that their facility was located on Buffalo Speedway, just south of 610 Loop South. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Christi absent.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that he knew they had some heavy rainfall throughout the greater Houston region and he wanted to remind them that the City of Houston was always on call to make sure they were looking out for all of their citizens, that yesterday the Houston Emergency Operations Center was activated and individuals, City of Houston personnel worked overnight to monitor the weather patterns and the County did as well to make sure that they were looking out for the best interest of the community. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Christi absent.

Council Member Noriega stated that there would be a Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committee meeting today at 2:00 p.m. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Christi absent.

Council Member Pennington stated he enjoyed going to the Commissioner's Court yesterday because they were welcomed by the County staff and elected officials, that he thought they elected an excellent person to be the Chairman of the Port Commission; that the County and City had similar issues, health, transportation, crime lab and so forth where they were active in the same areas as the City and he thought if they could meet on a regular basis, representatives of the bodies, to discuss the ins and outs of projects, they would have a better chance of being more cooperative; that as to the appointment of Port Commissioners, he had a couple of people talk to him and he thought they were probably qualified, that he read in the newspaper, in connection with the announcement of the new Chair, they said the agency had been under siege or whatever, that he knew that one of the allegations was that their activities were not public enough, that he would like for them to consider, rather than Council Members just nominating people whom they knew right now, was that they have a process whereby different organizations or people could nominate people for the Council's consideration. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Christi absent.

Mayor Parker stated that this was a Council nomination, so each Council Member had the ability to reach out as widely as they wished and to tap into the different stakeholder groups; that the question about working with the County she felt was important to address, their Housing

Department and the Houston Housing Authority worked very closely with their counterparts in the County; the Health Department worked on a regular and routine basis, they had joint libraries that they operated, the Parks and Public Works Departments, that while they welcomed Council Members who wanted to engage with commissioners and other County officials she wanted to ensure everyone that they worked actually quite closely with the County at staff level and they operated a lot of joint facilities together. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez, Bradford and Christi absent.

Council Member Green stated that he knew they just elected representatives for HCAD and knew that as representative for the City of Houston they had a vote with regard to what that budget looked like, that in past years there was a Summer Jobs Program that they were apply to hire youth who qualified in the area to put them in jobs in the City, as well as jobs around the County and with nonprofits, that he would hope that their representatives, when they went to those meetings on behalf of the City of Houston, would be advocating to bring the Summer Jobs Program back; announced events he attended or would be attending Council Members Brown, Rodriguez, Burks and Noriega absent.

Council Member Davis announced events he attended or would be attending and stated that Saint Pius High School called him to talk about texting, they asked him to take a blue ring which stated "Texting Kills" and they went to the auditorium, the entire school was in the auditorium and over 6 of them stood up and told them that they lost someone they knew from a texting while driving incident, that they understood that the State of Texas was supposed to have a law go out about no texting while driving, so they wanted to see what the City of Houston could do about texting and driving, that after the meeting with Saint Pius he went to the other 6 high schools in District B and that was one thing they could agree on, that they wanted to see if they could do something about an ordinance for no texting while driving in the City of Houston. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Burks absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she appreciated Council Member Davis bringing the issue up, that there was a small working group that was about to expand that included AT&T and some City staff, they had a PR firm that was interested in helping them put together a Houston specific "no texting while driving" initiative and it was something that she had also given to the Mayor's Youth Council to work on, that she looked forward to further discussions with Council Member Davis on creating some momentum on the "no texting while driving"; that as to the Skate Park, it was not just for District B, it would be a national destination skate park and was economic development. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Burks absent.

Council Member Cohen announced events she attended or would be attending and stated that today was the ninth anniversary of her husband passing away and it was always poignant and she thought about him a lot, that he was the most courageous, ethical and honest person that she had ever known and how fortunate she was to spend 42 years of her life with him, that she wanted to remind everyone if they had someone special in their life, whether parents or children or husband, wife or partner, to take advantage of every day they had together and enjoy the quality of life. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Burks absent.

Council Member Christi stated that he wanted to reiterate the love fest they had at the County yesterday, they had one candidate and both sides agreed, that it was a political symbiosis that occurred during the Metro language in the last election and he looked forward to the political symbiosis on the medical lab in the future to make them the best medical lab in the County and save the taxpayers a lot of money. Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Burks absent.

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 10:44 a.m. Council Adams absent due to being ill. Council Member Hoang absent on city business.

Council Members Brown, Rodriguez and Burks absent.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY.

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

/S/Anna Russell

Anna Russell, City Secretary