

MINUTES
NBCA Meeting with Mayor Guajardo – Las Brisas
Aug 29, 2024

6:00 PM Pledge of allegiance – Carrie introduces new sign in sheet

Ron introduces **Mayor Paulette Guajardo**

MAYOR:

Shortly after taking office, she recalls communicating with Carrie in 2016 about NB issues and concerns. Then she took a ride with Ron more recently, to learn about the issues.

Our shared vision: Keep our taxes low, advocate for North Beach and be listened to. Building connectivity on NB. Be responsive. Hold government accountable to work for you. We need to listen to you. Carrie, Ron, Barbara Welder – they ask me to listen and I do – which is what makes government accountable.

You have established your **Priorities for Improvement** on NB. I'll tell you where we are on that.

Drainage – taking a 3-pronged approach. 1) linear canal in design 2) added Eco Park, Beach Ave, Gulfstream – adding to the drainage project. Installing circulation pumps along the canals and outlets so water does not stay stagnant.

Breakwaters are also important. Very large project. Still on the radar.

Elevating the roads for drainage will be both Bond 2018 and Bond 2024 (\$1.6 million). Elevate these 2 streets (Beach Ave and Gulfstream Ave), that starts the momentum. Then we'll continue to move forward.

North Beach Eco Park – it's in the design phase, funded by Bond 2022 (at 30% design). As we move forward, we will let you know. 30-acre park, has been talked about for quite some time. Want to make sure there are public amenities. Want feedback from you. We have other funding possibilities such as the TIRZ, direct funding from the city, state and federal grants (GLO, Parks & Wildlife, NPS).

We had a budget workshop today – talking about hiring another grant writer.

North Beach History Plaza – project is complete. Looking for an entryway sign and shade. Barbara and Carrie debate the pros and cons of adding shade. There will be an entry sign, identifying a location.

Reducing beach erosion – mitigation is in Parks long-term 10-year plan. Assessing and mitigation erosion on North Beach. Collaboration with other agencies like the US Army Corps of Engineers.

North Beach fire station. Don't have enough data to justify building a fire dept today. As time goes on and the community grows, that's something they will look at. Linear Parkway Canal project could add development. So the city will monitor it.

Barbara Welder mentions during the 2021 freeze that the city (the mayor) brought blankets to help those without power.

Surfside Park Renovation – labor of love. Beautiful. Opened on July 29 - \$6.8 million project. Elevated restroom, built back from the beach, ADA, walkways, playscape. Congratulations on that.

Economic Dev projects (TIRZ 4) – Fajitaville and Hotel deVille \$1.3 mil in TIRZ funding. They're investing \$3 million in renovating the restaurant and \$1.4 million in renovating the hotel.

Driving around with Ron Graban. Went by **Kiwanis Park** softball field. I wanted to get them a new sign. Senior citizens and veterans play ball there. We put the sign up and had the pleasure of meeting the players. The pride that they had in that field where they spend their leisure time. Seating in disrepair.

Daniel – Water floods the **TxDot underpass**. We had a canal plan but it got turned down. Big canal on Padre Island. But nothing here.

Paulette – Drainage is being addressed. I've been here 8 years. We do want to hear you. North Beach is on the map. We will work with Todd Hunter and TxDOT.

Bob Catalano – It's not a ghetto anymore. We've made progress.

Mayor - Big things are important. So are the small ones.

Villa del Sol – tragedy with the fire. Fire Chief Brandon Wade was on site. The Red Cross was letting me know what was needed. Very unfortunate. Update: On Aug 22 Dev Services mailed out notices out, emergency demolition notices sent to 19 condo owners. Owners appeal ends on Sept 4. If no appeals are received, we will proceed with the demolition.

Ben Grande – VDS has a plan in place with city staff. The HOA pays the city back.

Barb Johnson – we didn't have insurance. HOA is in debt.

STREETS – After years of neglect, all of the streets in CC that need to be fixed. It would take 60 years to repair all the streets. We have a "pavement only approach," which condenses the timeline from 60 years to 12 years. Goes down to \$190 million. In the past 5 years, we've spent \$680 million on streets citywide. Fiscal Year 2025 we have \$120 million citywide.

Roseann Woo – thanks to the mayor for paving the east half of GulfSpray Ave.

Desal – Today our water levels at Choke Canyon and Lake CC are at 24.7%. Desal has gotten moving the last 6 years. June 2028 it would be operational. Planning for the future. We cannot

rely on our lakes anymore. Gov Abbot was here (at HRI) today and he believes that we must build desal because the state of Texas needs the water. Mary Rhodes built that pipeline, but she did it against the will of the people.

Location is in the Inner Harbor. Nueces Bay Blvd and Broadway. We're using the building as an educational platform as well.

Salinity range in the bay is 25-40 parts per thousand in the Inner Harbor. So the marine organisms adjust to that. When we discharge the brine, the salinity will go up only 2 parts per thousand. That was proved through modeling that was independently confirmed. I would never support something that wasn't environmentally safe. The cost of putting it in the Gulf is too high and that will make the water bills too high.

Patrick - Is the water going to Industry or to us?

Mayor - Right now it's going 50-50 industry/residential

Debbie Ware – I am concerned because we're dumping the brine in the bay because we can't afford to pump it out to the Gulf ... we allow the industries to get cheap water and they're not holding up their end of it. If they paid their share we could put it out in the Gulf.

Lynn Frazier – A couple of companies are mining salt domes. Idea is to put the brine in the salt domes for storage. Not good to pump it into this closed bay.

Inner Harbor plant will produce 30 million gallons per day. La Quinta will produce 40 million gallons per day.

Normal saline is 32 ppt – ocean is 24 ppt

Denise Scott – if we build a desal will we still pull from Lake CC? It's really low. (Answer: yes)

Stewart – How much would it cost to pipe it out to the Gulf? Answer: about \$1 billion extra.

Mayor: We have to consider rate payer, the environment, industry, ... we are trying to do the best for you, make the best decisions for you. Desal is different. Not a street, trash can, usual stuff. This is once in a lifetime, just like the pipeline was for Mary Rhodes.

I'm very proud of this Council. We chose to run for office. We doubled the property tax exemption for seniors and disabled. I lead the effort to eliminate the \$5.38 street fee. That is no longer on your water bill. We've lowered the city/property tax rate the past 4 fiscal years. You have to afford to live in your condos or your homes. We have to make the government work more for us. Cut waste, find duplicate efforts.