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# Council receives draft audit, awaiting final

**BY MARICA ELLIS**  
Palacios Beacon

A draft is just a draft - not the final product. So agreed the Palacios City Council when it was presented with its preliminary draft budget at last week's regular meeting.

Melissa Terry of Harrison, Waldrop, & Uherek, LLP, the accounting firm hired to audit the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, gave a presentation of the preliminary draft audit.

Questioned by Mayor Rick Cink on what the City's finances indicated, Terry noted the City's position is 'improving'.

"You have a lot of projects going on. It's just the management of these projects," Terry said. "There is a decrease in fund balance,

but it doesn't mean the City is declining in any way. There are a lot of things that play a part in those. I can't say that's a good thing, but you all do have vision and you are working on projects that cost money. You do have people in place; they're being trained and are improving the system."

Mayor Cink asked how much of an impact Hurricane Beryl posed on the City's financial position.

"Besides having incurred those costs and not having an answer of when those (grant) projects are going to get approved and how much are going to get paid for those projects," Terry reported. "It affects the bottom line." She went on to try and explain the process with FEMA project approval and reim-

bursement level.

Councilman Chip Woolf questioned whether the audit found the City to be in compliance with its own policies.

"Are we okay without written policy we adopt each year about the amount of cash reserves we are supposed to have? Are we in compliance or are we in 'get better' mode?" Woolf howled.

Terry acknowledge the City's cash reserves are low. "There needs to be an increase in cash," she noted.

Councilwoman Donna Schulman directed eyes to Page 93 of the audit, where it discussed the prior year's findings, conditions and recommendations, and the current status.

"It's important to mention that I think the

staff has done a good job with current status as is from last year," she said. However, she noted "There were some issues."

Terry reassured Schulman the City was "on the right track."

"It takes some educating and some training, and some willingness to learn and time," Terry said.

Councilman Woolf declared his overall take on the audit was "We really need to concentrate on getting our utility fund to work. That is way the major thing, and it shows badly."

With increase in the cost incurred by the City, and how it would continue to incur with the water meters, the utility fund needs

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**WEDNESDAY  
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P. O. Box 817 • 310 Fifth St.  
Palacios, TX 77465  
(361) 972-3009  
palaciosbeacon@gmail.com  
Website: palaciosbeacon.com

# Palacios BEACON

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**Beacon Deadline  
4:30 p.m. Friday**

Except for paid advertising, all articles, photos or other information submitted on Monday will be published on a space available basis only.

Open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Beacon Closed Wednesday

Observing Our  
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Year  
1907-2025

**BEACON  
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**Did You Know?  
Thurs. at Dock  
35 Bar & Grill**

This month's *Did You Know?* Happy Hour, will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Thurs. (April 3) at *Dock 35 Bar & Grill*, located at 1520 Henderson Ave. Matagorda County Judge Bobby Seiferman will be the featured guest speaker.

**St. Anthony's  
Lenten Fish Fry  
fundraiser Fri.**

St. Anthony of Padua's Catholic Church in Palacios, located at 1004 Magnusson, will be holding a fried fish plate fundraiser on Fri. (April 4) beginning at 4 p.m. until sold out. Plates are \$15 and includes fried fish, coleslaw, and beans.

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## Two trucks, a boat & golf-cart in Friday night crash

PALACIOS first responders answered a call of a motor vehicle accident shortly after 10 p.m. on March 28 at the University Ave. intersection at 1st St. The driver of a black pickup pulling a boat on a trailer heading into town on 1st St. lost control and veered into the parking area of autoshp, struck a parked truck - which was launched across 2-1/2 lanes of 1st St. - crashed into a concrete light pillar, smashed a parked goldcart and had the boat leave the trailer. No injuries were reported.



(Beacon Photos by Ryan West)

## Now Hiring: MCND begins search for new Port Director

**BY RYAN WEST**  
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Months following the resignation and rehire on a month-to-month contract basis of former Port Director Victor Martinez, the Matagorda Co. Navigation District #1 (MCND) commissioners officially began their quest to find a full-time replacement at last week's regular monthly meeting.

After discussions behind executive sessions closed doors, the commissioners returned to open session with action to begin the search for qualified candidates.

The Port Director job duties include the management, operation and devel-

opment of MCND#1 properties, including the Port of Palacios, and administrative/financial management, all in accordance with the policy direction of the MCND#1 Board of Commissioners.

Qualifications for the position include an appropriate four-year college degree, or comparable experience, and a minimum of five years of management experience with increasing responsibilities.

The desired candidate is a seasoned team leader with management experience in maritime, transportation, property development/leasing or other related operations. Work experience in a governmental entity is preferable. The salary for this position will be based on the candidate's experience, skills and

qualifications. A vehicle allowance and a Matagorda County Benefit package are provided, including health insurance and retirement. Resumes with work history (including salary history and contact information), achievements, certifications and references should be submitted to: MCND#1 Port Director, P. O. Box 551, Palacios, Texas 77465.

More information can be found on the MCND website, [www.portofpalacios.com](http://www.portofpalacios.com).

**Port Director's Reports**

Port Director Martinez reported continuing to meet and work with the Maritime Administration and the CSRS team

(See MCND, Page 3)

**City  
Spring  
Clean-Up  
Saturday**

The City of Palacios will be holding its annual Spring Clean Up from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sat. (April 5) at the Palacios Airport, located at 3 RB Trull Blvd.

The clean-up is for Palacios residents only and must bring a City of Palacios water bill and photo ID. Residents will be asked to sign authorization for fees to be added to water bills. City employees will be available to assist with unloading.

There will be no charge to residents for junk, trash, old furniture or appliances. Residents will need to sign an authorization sheet and fees will be added to their water bills.

Items requiring charges: all electronic material and tires and rims under 20-inches.

There will also be safe medication disposal containers on-site, courtesy the Palacios Police Dept. A sharps containers will on-site, courtesy the Palacios Community Medical Center.

No hazardous material (paint, oil, chemicals) will be accepted.

## Intersection of FM521 - FM2853 claims another accident



(Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

THE treacherous intersection at FM521 and FM 2853 claimed another accident on the afternoon of March 28. Shortly before 7 p.m. authorities responded to an accident at the intersection, where a red Honda travelling east on FM 521 had its front end sheared off by a late '90's model Ford pickup. No injuries were reported.

• Deadline for Articles, Classified & Display Ads 4:30 p.m. Friday •

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