



411 E San Patricio Ave. Mathis TX 78368
Tel 361-547-3343 Fax 361-547-3838

**The State of Texas
The County of San Patricio
The city of Mathis**

Regular Meeting

January 14, 2019

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551.041 of the Texas Government Code, the City Council of the City of Mathis held a **Regular Meeting** at **7:00 P.M.** on **Monday, January 14, 2019**, at City Hall-Annex, 401 E. San Patricio Avenue. **Public Notice** was hereby given that the City Council may elect to go into closed session at any time during the meeting in order to discuss matters listed on the agenda concerning personnel, consultation with the city attorney, real estate acquisition, or other purposes authorized under the "Open Meetings Act". In the event the City Council elects to go into closed session regarding an agenda item; the purpose of the closed session and the section of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the session will be publicly announced by the presiding officer.

Mayor Pro Tem David Garcia led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll call to determine presence of a quorum.

Mayor Ciri Villarreal, Councilwoman Sandra Quinones, Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto and Mayor Pro Tem David Garcia.

Absent: Councilman Abel Trejo and Councilwoman Rosalinda Pena

City Staff Present: City Manager Michael Barrera, City Secretary Mary Acosta Gonzales, Finance Director Caron S. Vela, EMS Director Paul Pulley, Chief Pedro Saenz, Public Works Director Gary Paredez, Vol. Fire Chief Adrian Ramirez and City Attorney Lucinda Garcia. Other City Staff were not required to attend.

Guests: Christina Saenz, A. Pedraza, Tommy Patterson, Isabel Rivera, Captain Tom Carter, Yvonne Carter, Paul Gonzalez, Mathis News; Rhonda Payne, Sarah Cano, Mary Olivarez, Ron Green, Fidel Jimenez, Richard Millar, Evangelina, Moreno and Colvin Cosby.

2. Call to order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ciri Villarreal at 7:01 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Mathis will discuss and act on the following:

3. Consider approval of minutes for December 10, 2018.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem David Garcia motioned to approve the minutes of December 10, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sandra Quinones and the motion carried 3-0.

5. Citizen presentation from the floor.

Becky Ohm, former Mathis Police Officer, addressed the Council, beginning with stating that she's present to speak on behalf of others who did not show up due to fear of retaliation, threats, swearing and coercion to quit. Ms. Ohms stated that she was forced to quit the Mathis Police Department (MPD) and was told to quiet or resign quietly and would get a general F5; if not I would get a dishonorable discharge. Ms. Ohms stated that she was also threatened at work after making the Chief at the time extremely upset, that he was going to shoot me in the face. Multiple comments, threats of violence against me and all of the personnel working with me. Ms. Ohm stated that she stood up for a citizen of town and became known as a whistle blower and was the start of the threats becoming public, according to information received from a former MPD Investigator, Adam Irwinski, who is willing to speak to anyone who reaches out to him as he no longer lives in Texas. Ms. Ohms added having knowledge that Chief Saenz and the ex-Chief Porretto placed a bet between each other of getting either Ms. Ohms or former Telecommunications Operator, Tara Scott, into bed before leaving office. Comments as such were constantly made, Ms. Ohms added that she was told not to come into town and was threatened that drugs would be placed in her vehicle and would be arrested; as such Ms. Ohms stated that she has not been in Mathis since, July 10, 2017. With continued statements, Ms. Ohms concluded that she will not come back into Mathis out of fear of retribution, being arrested or having her life and career destroyed completely.

Ron Green addressed the Council in regards to the road conditions along W. San Patricio Ave, leading into McNally and the railroad crossing. Mr. Green stated that the roadway in that area have not been touched and would like to see some road repair to get done, including adding something within the railroad crossing.

5. City Manager's Report and all matters pertaining thereto:

Michael Barrera, City Manager

- Public Improvement District (PID) & Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) update

Mr. Barrera informed the Council that he was just informed last week of the City's requirement to prepare to issue bonds for the MEDC development projects discussed over the past several months. The information received was a surprise to Mr. Barrera, after having communicated to the Council on November 13, 2018 that the MEDC was going to issue the bonds required for the infrastructure improvements for the project. Mr. Barrera further explained that issuing the bonds under the City's name concerns him due to two primary reasons. One of which is the liability that exists if the projects fail to generate the revenue required to satisfy the bond payments. After placing a call with the team on the project, the MEDC financial consultant assured Mr. Barrera that the City is 100% immune from being held liable for the bonds due to the type of bonds issued, Special Assessment Bonds. However, Mr. Barrera asked for other alternatives to pursue in order to minimize the City's exposure to the debt and has asked the consultant to research if the MEDC can issue the bonds and/or the possibility of creating a Local Development Corporation to issue the bonds. Second, Mr. Barrera stated that as discussed last year, the City has paid down some long term debt and is in a position to develop a long term infrastructure funding plan to repair and/or replace streets and utility lines throughout the City. Therefore, Mr. Barrera believes issuing the above debt under the City's name will affect the City's bond rating by reducing the debt capacity.

Pedro Saenz, Police Chief

- Police performance report

Chief Saenz gave a monthly report from December 2018. A total of 496 calls were received, officers initiated to 195 and 301 call were for service. There were 74 case reports, 15 arrests, 19 traffic citations, 52 traffic warnings. There were 29 Animal Control calls, 25 animals were picked up, One owner claimed, 8 currently in jail, 1 leaving this week and 39 animals saved.

Gary Paredez, Public Works Director

- Public Works performance reports

Mr. Paredez gave a report for the month of November 2018. There were 21 water leaks and 42 sewer stoppages. The water treatment plant production for plant raw water meter was 19,801,000 gallons, a total water production was 18,006,000 gallons which is 28% of capacity. The wastewater treatment plant total water treated was 17.199 MG which is 61% capacity. For the Street department, there were 947 potholes patched with cold mix. In Utilities, there were 64 disconnect accounts, 29 were reconnected, leaving 27 still disconnected. Service Orders per department were Water, 116 issued, 112 resolved, 4 pending; Wastewater was 45 issued, 43 resolved and 2 pending; Street was 85 issued, 73 resolved and 12 pending. For building permits, there were 7 issued with a total amount collected of \$710.50.

Adrian Ramirez, Vol. Fire Chief

- Fire Department performance report

Chief Ramirez gave a report for the year 2018. There were a total of 94 calls for the City; 87 calls assisted in the County area and 12 calls responded to outside of the County which was reported as mutual aid request for major brush fires around the area. Chief Ramirez also elaborated on current volunteers participating in continued training as well as informed that he has been appointed as the Secretary to the State Fireman Fire Marshal Association for the local South Central District.

Caron S. Vela, Finance Director

- Special Revenue Variance Report

Mrs. Vela reported \$110,489 in total revenues for the Debt Service Fund with \$140,438 in total expenses; leaving revenues over/under expenses at (\$29,949). A total of \$18,057 in total revenues for the Street Improvement Fund with \$8,225 in total expenses; leaving revenues over/under expenses at \$9,832. A total of \$24,416 in total revenues for the Hotel/Motel Fund with \$29,832 in total expenses; leaving revenues over/under expenses at (\$5,416). A total of \$31,102 in total revenues for the Festivals & Events with \$28,509 in total expenses; leaving revenues over/under expenses at \$2,593

- Audit Status Report

Mrs. Vela informed the Council that the 2014-2015 Audit Report Draft has been received for review and will be ready to present to the Council at the next Council meeting.

Mary A. Gonzales, City Secretary

- City Council Quarterly Calendar

Mrs. Gonzales reviewed the projected agenda items for the upcoming meetings scheduled for the second meeting in January through February and March. It also included an annual calendar of set dates provided to council for upcoming scheduled meetings and events.

6. *Closed public meeting.*

The public meeting went into closed session at 7:58 p.m.

7. Executive Session under Section 551.074 to deliberate and hear a complaint asserted by Isabel Rivera against Police Chief Pedro Saenz.

8. Executive Session under Section 551.071 to consult with City Attorney and Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional conduct Rule 1.05 regarding complaint asserted by Isabel Rivera against Police Chief Pedro Saenz.

9. Reconvene public meeting.

The meeting resumed to open meeting at 10:32p.m.

10. Consider possible action from the foregoing Personnel Matter executive session.

Mayor Villarreal stated; "we appreciate the City's concerns and have directed the City Manager to continue to attend to the professional development of the Police Chief and the Police Department and correct any inconveniences."

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem David Garcia motioned to approve the directive given to City Manager to continue attending to the professional development of the Police Chief and the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto and the motion carried 3-0.

11. City Council requests for future Agenda Items.

There were no future agenda items requested.

12. Adjourn

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 10:41 p.m.

MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem David Garcia and the motion carried 3-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 11th DAY OF February, 2019.

UPON THE MOTION OF Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto

SECONDED BY Councilwoman Sandra Quinones AND ADOPTED

BY A VOTE OF 3 TO 0.

ATTEST:


Mary Acosta Gonzales, City Secretary


Ciri Villarreal, Mayor