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The State of Texas  
The County of San Patricio  
The City of Mathis

Regular Meeting  
February 11, 2021

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 **Thursday, February 11, 2021**, 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 Ciri Villarreal led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

1. Roll call to determine presence of a quorum.

Mayor Ciri Villarreal, Councilwoman Sandra Quinones, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas, Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto, Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez, and Councilman David Garcia.

City Staff Present: City Manager Michael Barrera, Admin. Asst. Monique Alvarado, Finance Director Caron Vela, Police Chief Marshal Roush, EMS Director Paul Pulley. Other City Staff were not required to attend.

City Staff Present via GoToMeeting: City Secretary Mary A. Gonzales and Public Works Director Gary Paredez

Guests: Virginia Lopez and Nicole Alonzo

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 January 25, 2021, Regular Meeting.

*Mayor Villarreal stated that the motion on item number 12 needs to be corrected to say "First reading" instead of "SECOND reading".*

**MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve the corrected minutes for January 25, 2021, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas and the motion carried 5-0.**

4. Citizens to be heard.

*There were no comments or presentations.*

5. Motion approving the SECOND reading of Ordinance No. O-21-01-06 Amending the comprehensive zoning ordinance and the zoning map so as to give the following described property more fully described as Business Park Lt. 3D; a zoning classification of Industrial District Use, being in San Patricio County, Texas, Amending the official zoning map of the City, providing for a savings clause; providing for a severability clause; and providing for an effective date.

*Mr. Barrera informed that this ordinance will allow the property owner to move forward with his business plan as the zoning change will allow the owner to manufacture sealant on his property for his business. Mr. Barrera stated that there have been two public hearings on the item and that notices were sent to the surrounding residents with no opposition being received.*

**MOTION:** Councilman David Garcia motioned to approve the SECOND reading of Ordinance No. O-21-01-06 Amending the comprehensive zoning ordinance and the zoning map so as to give the following described property more fully described as Business Park Lt. 3D; a zoning classification of Industrial District Use, being in San Patricio County, Texas, Amending the official zoning map of the City, providing for a savings clause; providing for a severability clause; and providing for an effective date.. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez and the motion carried 5-0.

6. Presentation by San Patricio County Department of Public Health regarding a TXPAN Community Based Program and COVID-19.

*Community Health Liaison Nicole Alonzo informed that the TXPAN Project is a CDC/DSHS program that has systemic strategies for obesity prevention. Mrs. Alonzo stated that this project is an asset to the community as it aids in physical activity and nutrition. Mrs. Alonzo shared that some of the strategies for the project include breastfeeding support, food service guidelines, early care education for physical activity and nutrition, and physical activity using active living. Mayor Villarreal asked if the TXPAN Community Based Program will have any available grants to help the city accomplish related items. Community-Based Program Manager Virginia Lopez shared that the program doesn't have funds available for grants but that the program is designed to help the city find resources and grant funding opportunities. Mrs. Lopez shared that they can also look into holding an annual event for the TXPAN Project or to join the project with an existing community event. Mrs. Lopez informed that they would be able to provide things related to health such as bags with a business that promotes physical health or other door prizes. Mayor Villarreal asked if masks would be eligible since they are still important and used by many residents. Mrs. Lopez stated that it could be a possibility as they have not ordered many items yet. Mrs. Lopez shared that they were able to get 300 doses of the COVID vaccine that were distributed to some Group 1A individuals and then to the general public. Mrs. Lopez stated that they received over 3,000 phone calls in three hours so they now have a waiting list for when the next shipment of vaccines come in. Mrs. Lopez informed that they have an event called COVID Coffee that is hosted on Facebook live with the Public Health Preparedness Manager Clara Rieder who makes announcements and provides information regarding COVID. Mrs. Lopez shared the websites to find more information regarding vaccine availability, COVID testing sites, and general COVID information. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked if there were any plans to get a vaccine clinic in Mathis. Mrs. Lopez shared that if they get enough vaccines they will be looking at some other locations to host a vaccine clinic. Councilwoman Olivarez asked if someone were to register with San Patricio County would they also be able to register in the surrounding counties. Mrs. Lopez shared that there is a state wide system being used to track what shot an individual has had, so someone can get there first shot in Sinton and then get there second shot in Dallas. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked if the Emergency Management Coordinator could give information regarding the number of individuals with COVID in Mathis. Mrs.*

*Lopez shared that due to the HIPAA they cannot give that information but they do release the number of active cases per commissioner's precinct. Councilman Garcia thanked Mrs. Lopez for providing information and asked what can be done if the mask ordinance is still in place and organizations or businesses are not complying or having their customers comply. Mrs. Lopez informed that the county cannot enforce the ordinance but the cities are able to but most choose not to.*

7. Consider motion approving Resolution R-21-02-14 accepting the offer of \$1,050.00 by Michael Moreno for the purchase of a tax sale property more fully described as .0542 Acres, more or less, Lot 3, Block 3, Flores Addition, an addition to the City of Mathis, San Patricio County; located on Flores St.

*Mrs. Gonzales informed that the property is currently valued as \$1,016.00 and failed to sale at tax sale. The total taxes due to all entities is \$405.02 of which \$145.82 is the delinquent tax portion due to the City and if the sale is approved the City will receive \$282.62.*

**MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas motioned to approve Resolution R-21-02-14 accepting the offer of \$1,050.00 by Michael Moreno for the purchase of a tax sale property more fully described as .0542 Acres, more or less, Lot 3, Block 3, Flores Addition, an addition to the City of Mathis, San Patricio County; located on Flores St. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto and the motion carried 5-0.**

8. Consider Resolution No. R-21-02-15 authorizing the submission of the Criminal Justice Grant Program Application to the Office of the Governor for a replacement patrol vehicle, and additional associated computer equipment; and authorizing the City Manager to act as the City's Authorized Representative in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Criminal Justice Grant Program.

*Mrs. Barrera informed that the grant is for the Police Department and that they are only able to submit for a vehicle under the grant and not for the computers. Mr. Barrera shared that it would be approximately \$43,000 that the City is applying for in order to get a replacement vehicle. Mayor Villarreal asked of the City has the money to get the computers for the vehicle if the grant is approved. Mr. Barrera shared that when the City was first applying for the grant it seemed like the computers would be able to be included but that was not the case. Mrs. Vela added that the city applied for 5 computers through the CESF grant but was only awarded 2 so they are still looking into getting the remaining 3 funded. Mr. Barrera stated that the only other option besides grants would be to try to budget for the computers and that each computer is about \$8,000. Mayor Villarreal asked if the grant is approved for the replacement vehicle will the city have enough funds to get it in working order. Chief Roush explained that the vehicle will come equipped with the sirens, emergency lights, and other things of that nature but it will not have the computer. Chief Roush shared that the computer makes it possible for the officer to write the citation and complete reports out in the field which means less time at a desk and more time patrolling.*

**MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas motioned to approve Resolution No. R-21-02-15 authorizing the submission of the Criminal Justice Grant Program Application to the Office of the Governor for a replacement patrol vehicle, and additional associated computer equipment; and authorizing the City Manager to act as the City's Authorized Representative in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Criminal Justice Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sandra Quinones and the motion carried 5-0.**

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

Marshal Roush, Police Chief

- *Police Department performance report*

Chief Roush reported that for the month of January, 91 traffic stops were made, 59 citations written, 24 warnings given, 1,011 calls answered, and 18 offenders arrested. Chief Roush shared that the in-car computers have been installed and have improved officer productivity since the citations can be done from the vehicle. He then reported that the NIBRS Grant has been closed and was used to pay for the new report management system. Chief Roush shared that they will be using the Corona grant to purchase multiple PPE items for the city. He shared that they are currently applying for the Criminal Justice Grant to try to fund the replacement of a vehicle that was lost in an accident. He added that the police radios have been ordered and should be in soon. Chief Roush stated that the police department is having a difficult time with internet speed and as they are adding more technology to the department, better internet service is needed. He reported that Rachael Barrios has been hired on as the new code enforcement officer. Chief Roush reported that the Police Department is currently down 3 officers but 2 are in the hiring process. He shared that they have reached out to the police academy in Corpus to help find qualified candidates. Chief Roush shared that he has reached out to some members of the community regarding a neighborhood watch program and have received positive responses. He stated that he would like to set out flyers and set up a town hall meeting possibly in March. Mayor Villarreal shared that there has been some issues with dispatch over screening calls and asked if that can be addressed. Chief Roush shared that he has asked them not to screen the calls as much but will address it with them again. Councilman Garcia asked if any calls in January were in regards to the Mask mandate or social gathering limitations. Chief Roush shared that none of the calls were in regards to COVID restrictions and regulations. Councilman Garcia asked if it would be possible to have an officer go to the businesses and place signs regarding the mask mandate. Chief Roush stated that it could be something he can look into and that it should be no problem. Councilman Garcia asked what recruitment efforts are being made and what are the main reasons for the Police Department's staffing issue. Chief Roush shared that although they have raised their starting pay to be equivalent to Sinton most of the officers who leave are mostly going to better paying jobs. Chief Roush shared that he has gone before the police academy at Del Mar and try to sell them to work for Mathis. Councilman Garcia asked if they can sponsor someone to go through the Police Academy. Chief Roush shared that it is a long process but departments usually get commitments from them for 2 years. Councilman Garcia asked if there were any locals who work for the Police Department and if not then why. Chief Roush shared that there are currently no locals at the Police Department but that people locally don't apply for any Police Department positions.

Caron Vela, Finance Director

- *Special Revenue Funds Variance Report*

Mrs. Vela reported on Revenues for the four month report as of January 31, 2020. The Debt Service fund had a total revenue of \$197,776 with total expenses of \$0; leaving the revenues over expenses at \$197,776. The Street improvement fund had a total revenue of \$24,060 with total expenses of \$0; leaving the revenues over expenses at \$24,060. The Hotel/Motel fund had a total revenue of \$10,249 with total expenses of \$18,183; leaving the revenues under expenses at \$7,934. The Festivals and Events fund had a total revenue of \$18,943 with total expenses of \$21,736; leaving the revenues under expenses at \$2,793.

Mary A. Gonzales, City Secretary

- *Agenda Quarterly Calendar*

Projected agenda items for the upcoming meetings were reported.

10. City Council requests for future Agenda Items.

Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested an update on when the Bond Project will start breaking ground; he also requested an update on the lights that are out on Hwy 359 and the street lamps that are out on IH 37.

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas requested information regarding possible grants for ambulances.

11. Adjourn

*With no further items to discuss, Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 8:03 p.m.*

**MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez and the motion carried 5-0.**

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 22 DAY OF February, 2021

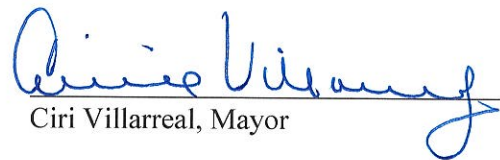
UPON THE MOTION OF Councilwoman Sandra Quinones

SECONDED BY Councilwoman Mary Olivarez AND ADOPTED

BY A VOTE OF 5 TO 0.

ATTEST:

  
Mary Acosta Gonzales, City Secretary

  
Ciri Villarreal, Mayor

