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

**Regular Meeting**

**April 12, 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 Monday, April 12, 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.

**Councilman David Garcia led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

1. Roll call to determine presence of a quorum.

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

Absent: Mayor Ciri Villarreal

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

Guests via GoTo Meeting: Ciri Villarreal

Guests: Steve Cervantes, Rachael Barrios, Elizabeth Breedlove, Brent Grundstrom, Eusebio Lerma, Isabel Rivera, Tommy Patterson, Natalie Gonzalez, Robert Brake, Alyssa Brake, and Melissa Jimenez

2. Call to order.

**With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas 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 March 22, 2021, Regular Meeting and April 5, 2021, Special Meeting.

**MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve the minutes for March 22, 2021, Regular Meeting and April 5, 2021, Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez and the motion carried 5-0.**

4. Citizens to be heard.

*Steve Cervantes shared that several individuals have informed him on difficulties they have faced with tax sale properties regarding time limitations on properties and deed issues. Mr. Cervantes*

*shared that the community needs to start keeping pollution in mind and try to refrain from using single use plastic.*

*Brent Grundstrom informed council of an investigation currently taking place regarding Police Chief Marshal Roush and some Police Department staff. Mr. Grundstrom expressed concern that the individuals involved in the investigation are able to continue working when in most cases they would be placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation. Mr. Grundstrom shared that the original complaint was reported to Mr. Barrera on March 17, 2021 and many individuals who have given statements have been questioned by the city attorney. Mr. Grundstrom stated that the current Police Chief is incapable of performing his duties as he only works 20 to 30 hours per week and does other off duty jobs on days he is supposed to be at the Police Department. Mr. Grundstrom informed that he is aware of this because he was the former Lieutenant and second in command at the Mathis Police Department and because of this he had to do the job of the Police Chief, the Police Department Secretary, and the CID Sergeant. Mr. Grundstrom informed that over the last year and a half that Chief Roush has been in command and there have been well over 20 employees that have left and that some were the cause of being targeted and forced out leading to many terminations and forced resignations that were wrongful. Mr. Grundstrom explained that some of the affected individuals have lost everything due to the wrong doing. He then shared that there are claims of sexual harassment in the types of conversation the chief has with fellow employees. Mr. Grundstrom added that female officers and dispatchers have been hit on and harassed to the point of quitting. Mr. Grundstrom shared that this needs to be resolved for the citizens of Mathis, the employees, and for the greater good. Mr. Grundstrom stated the individuals in question are a disgrace to the badge, the office and their oath.*

*Eusebio Lerma informed that he was a former Police Officer for the City of Mathis and that he is a former veteran of 30 years. Mr. Lerma shared that because of an action he made he was told to resign with an honorable discharge or go on a pending investigation without pay. Mr. Lerma explained that he later reached out to HR to receive clarity and was informed that any investigation would still require the individual to be paid. Mr. Lerma explained that he has gained rapport with many citizens over the years and because of one call he is being treated poorly which is unacceptable. He added that he has sought legal action and has retained an attorney. Mr. Lerma explained that Chief Roush said that Mr. Lerma was needed because of his experience but that did not turn out to be the case as he was asked to resign.*

*Isabel Rivera informed that it has been several years since she has worked for the city and that the Police Department has been slandering her name. Mrs. Rivera shared that she believes this is happening because of her knowledge of the issues within the department. Mrs. Rivera stated that Police Chief Roush has ordered the employees not to communicate with her in any manner or they will be terminated. Mrs. Rivera stated that usually if the Police Department doesn't get their way the only options for the employees are to be terminated and receive a negative F5 or resign willingly and receive a positive F5.*

5. Motion approving the Citizen Participation Plan required by the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program.

*Mr. Barrera informed that this is required for eligibility for the Texas Community Development Block Grant application. This will include complaint procedures, technical assistance, and public hearing provisions.*

**MOTION:** Councilman David Garcia motioned to approve the Citizen Participation Plan required by the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sandra Quinones and the motion carried 5-0.

6. Consider Resolution No. R-21-04-19 Authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2021-2022 Community Development Fund; and authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to act as the City's Executive Officers and Authorized Representative in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program.

*Mr. Barrera informed that this is a resolution to authorize the submission of the Texas Community Development Block Grant application and although council has previously approved the submission of the grant, staff failed to conduct a public hearing needed. Mr. Barrera shared that the public hearing has now been completed and can now get approval for submission of the application. Mr. Barrera informed that this grant is for water plant improvements that may include clarifier work, water storage tank work, and a sludge dewatering system. Mr. Barrera explained that at the recommendation of the grant administrator the match will be increased from \$43,000 to \$52,500 which will provide the city an additional 10 points in the scoring system. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked for information on the sludge dewatering system. Mr. Barrera explained that the city accumulates sludge at the plant and the idea is to get boxes installed and tie it into the system so that the sludge is pumped into the containers and then hauled off so that it doesn't continue to accumulate. Councilman Garcia asked if the lack of the public hearing and the first approval of the application will impact the city's chances of getting awarded. Mr. Barrera explained that because the public hearing has now been completed it should not impact the city's chance to get awarded because the application has not been officially submitted. Mr. Barrera explained that the actual application that must be submitted is not due until May 3<sup>rd</sup> and there are several things that must be brought to council before everything is finalized so because the issue was corrected it will be like the first resolution authorizing the submission of the application doesn't exist.*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve Resolution No. R-21-04-19 Authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2021-2022 Community Development Fund; and authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to act as the City's Executive Officers and Authorized Representative in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez and the motion carried 5-0.

7. Consider motion approving Resolution R-21-04-20 accepting the offer of \$3,100.00 by Isaac Alfaro for the purchase of a tax sale property more fully described as Lot 29, J.N. McNabb Subdivision #1, a subdivision to the City of Mathis, San Patricio County, located on 1132 Nevada St.

*Mrs. Gonzales informed that the property is currently valued as \$6,152 and failed to sale at tax sale. The total taxes due to all entities is \$9,557.29 of which \$3,758.35 is the delinquent tax portion due to the City and if the sale is approved the City will receive \$706.19*

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro Tem David Garcia motioned to approve Resolution R-21-04-20 accepting the offer of \$3,100.00 by Isaac Alfaro for the purchase of a tax sale property more fully described as Lot 29, J.N. McNabb Subdivision #1, a subdivision to the City of Mathis, San Patricio County, located on 1132 Nevada St. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sandra Quinones and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Gary Paredez, Public Works Director

- *Public Works Department performance report*

*Mr. Paredez reported for the February 2021 Monthly activity report, that there were 7 water leaks; 0 water taps; 17 sewer stoppages and 0 sewer taps during the month. The total water production was 13,731,000 gallons and the percent of capacity was 23%, the total water production is lower compared to the same month of the previous year. The total water treated was 14.049 MG and the percent of capacity was 42%. The data for disconnects, reconnects, and closed accounts for the month of February were unavailable due to the winter storm that impacted the city. The total trihalomethanes for the official sample and the process control are still pending. The street department has had 310 potholes patched with coldmix; 3 potholes patched with Dura Patch and did not do curb cleaning. The service orders issued were 79 for water; 20 for wastewater; and 26 for street. The services orders resolved for each department were 78 for water; 19 for wastewater; 14 for street. The pending service orders are 1 for water; 1 for wastewater; and 12 for street. There were 4 permits issued and the permit amount collected was \$432.60.*

Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked if he had the numbers for plant water pumped and water sold. Mr. Paredez explained that he was able to get the numbers for January through March but the numbers are probably off due to the winter storm in February. Mr. Paredez informed that for water pumped in versus water pumped out there was a 13% difference in January; 15% difference in February; and 11% difference in March. Mr. Paredez explained that it will take him longer to get the data for water sold because of the way the billing is done. Councilman Garcia asked why there were only seven water leaks on the report when there should be many more that was caused by the freeze. Mr. Paredez shared that five of the leaks were main line leaks and the other two were service orders. Councilman Garcia asked for Mr. Paredez to go back and verify the leaks because Councilman Garcia is confident there were more. In addition to his monthly report, Mr. Paredez reported that they found 12 street lights that were out in the community and have all been reported to AEP.

Caron Vela, Finance Director

- *Five month variance report discussion*

Mrs. Vela explained the previously reported five month variance report in more detail that included a comparison to the prior year to date providing council with a better understanding. Councilman Garcia asked what the increase can be attributed to for the admin account. Mrs. Vela informed that the election, legal fees, and the addition of an employee is the main cause for the increase. Councilman Garcia asked if anything can be done to get the value back in line of where it should be. Mr. Barrera stated that no formal measures have been taken yet such as hiring freezes or cutting back on expenditures. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked what the total predicted amount budgeted for tax sale is. Mrs. Vela informed that the budgeted amount for tax sale is \$1,004,805. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked how much of the tax roll does the city predict to sell to obtain the predicted amount. Mr. Barrera explained that the collection rate on current taxes of approximately 84% so that is what is used to determine the amount we plan to receive from property tax. Mr. Barrera added that the money that comes from Linebarger in the previous years is also used to determine the predicted amount.

- *Audit Status*

Mrs. Vela reported that a 90 day extension was requested for the audit and is now due June 30, 2021.

Mary A. Gonzales, City Secretary

- *Agenda Quarterly Calendar*

Projected agenda items for the upcoming meetings were reported. Councilman Garcia requested having the information for executive session before the meeting so that there is time to properly review the material. Mr. Barrera shared that he will contact the attorney to see what the options are in order to provide the material to the council in advance.

- *The role of the Council Members*

Mrs. Gonzales explained the roles and responsibilities of the Mathis City Council according to the Home Rule form of government and sections referenced of the City Charter.

9. City Council requests for future Agenda Items.

Councilwoman Sandra Quinones asked for information as to why citizens are having issues regarding tax sale properties and also requested information on recycling services.

Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez requested the fuel expenses of all City departments.

10. Adjourn

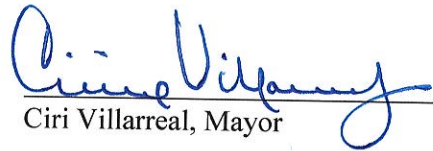
With no further items to discuss, Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 8:11 p.m

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

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 26 DAY OF April, 2021  
UPON THE MOTION OF Councilwoman Mary Olivarez  
SECONDED BY Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto AND ADOPTED  
BY A VOTE OF 5 TO 0.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Acosta Gonzales, City Secretary

  
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Ciri Villarreal, Mayor

