

August 14, 2023

The City Council met in Public Hearing followed by Regular Session August 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were City Administrator Jessie Montez, Mayor Sally Poteet, Council Members Adrian Hernandez, Gib Wheeler, Steven Villa, Leah Flanagan and James Jenkins. Also present, Chief of Police, Joe Morales and Finance Director, Laura Walker. Visitors: Danny Fryar, Diane Newton, Bill Reed, Anne Vanderslice, Stephanie Hairgrove, Lester Titsworth, Jayne Titsworth, Shannon Black, Carla Ingram, Laura Graves, Laurel Silva and Jan McCown.

Mayor Sally Poteet opened Public Hearing for Proposed Budget at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment:None

Public Hearing was closed and Regular Session was opened at 7:01 p.m.

Public Comment:

Anne Vanderslice, Stephanie Hairgrove and Lester Titsworth commented about the issue of aggressive stray dogs and wanted to be advised on how to handle situations in the future.

Jan McCown went over the Memorandum of Understanding and addressed the original template was a state template. She informed City Council about Chief of Police, Joe Morales, and the School District coming to agreement after changing wording in the document.

A motion was made by Council Member Wheeler and seconded by Council Member Flanagan that the previous minutes from July 10, 2023 be approved. All voted for.

Council Member Villa made the motion to adopt an Ordinance pertaining to Atmos Energy Corp. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion, and all voted for.

Joe Morales discussed the Memorandum of Understanding with Stanton ISD.

Council Member Wheeler made the motion to increase the amount from the SEDC (Stanton Economic Development Corporation) for Martin County Chamber of Commerce from \$30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Dollars) to \$46,000.00 (Forty-Six Thousand Dollars). Council Member Jenkins seconded the motion, and all voted for. Council Member Villa abstained from voting due to serving on the Chamber Board.

Council Member Flanagan made the motion to hire Eckert & Company CPA for the 2022-2023 audit. Council Member Villa seconded the motion, and all voted for.

Council Member Villa made the motion to table accepting utilities easement for the Martin County Project. Council Member Flanagan seconded the motion, and all voted for.

Council Member Villa made the motion to adopt the 2023-2024 Budget and approve an Ordinance adopting the Budget for the FY 2023-2024. Council Member Flanagan seconded the motion, and all voted for.

Council Member Villa made the motion to adopt the 2023-2024 Proposed Tax Rate at \$0.868887 per \$100 (One Hundred Dollars). Council Member Jenkins seconded the motion, and all voted for.

Council Member Flanagan made the motion to have Public Hearing on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. for the 2023-2024 Proposed Tax Rate. Council Member Hernandez seconded, and all voted for.

Two (2) bids for the Sewer Farm Pivot were opened. B&M Pump and Irrigation's bid was \$70,699.97 (Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Ninety-Seven Cents). Mesa Irrigation's bid was \$57,734.40 (Fifty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars and Forty Cents). Council Member Flanagan made the motion to accept bid for Sewer Farm Pivot from Mesa Irrigation for \$57,734.40 (Fifty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Four and Forty Cents). Council Member Villa seconded the motion, and all voted for.

Council Member Flanagan made the motion to renew the Sewer Farm Contract for One-(1) year for \$13,500.00 (Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars). Council Member Villa seconded the motion and all voted for.

Council Member Wheeler made the motion to permit Mark Gonzalez to temporarily use RV as living quarters. Council Member Jenkins seconded the motion, and all voted for.

Tabled item: Martin County Little League's request. Little League was not present. No action taken.

Chief of Police, Joe Morales, reported 99 (Ninety-Nine) calls for service. Chief reported Sgt. Alcorta resigned over the weekend and Officer Cook looking to go to MISD. Council inquired if there were any updates on hiring a new officer. Chief shared no updates as of now.

City Manager, Jessie Montez, gave the following updates: The landfill had inspections and multiple citations. Some items should have been addressed a long time ago. Follow-up with expert from Lubbock advised the state would be in contact. New compactor is in the shop due to poor operation since purchase. Landfill also had a fire in construction pile. The City paid \$17,000.00 (Seventeen Thousand Dollars) in credit card fees, a \$2.00 (Two Dollar) flat fee will be placed on transactions using credit cards starting October 1, 2023. New A/C Unit was installed by Graves Plumbing. American Towing will be leasing city yard. Computers at City Hall are needing to be replaced. Town Hall for Congressman Jodey Arrington on August 21, 2023 at 10:25 am. When Animal Control responds, the dogs are usually gone.

Council Member Villa made the motion to pay the July 2023 bills. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jenkins, and all voted for.

Council Member Wheeler made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Villa seconded the motion, and all voted for. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Sally Poteet, Mayor

ATTEST: Jessie Montez, City Administrator