

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ODEM, TEXAS
September 5, 2023

On this day, Tuesday, September 5, 2023 the City Council of the City of Odem met at the Odem Public Library, 516 Voss Avenue, Odem, Texas at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor, David Maldonado with the following members present to wit:

David Maldonado	Mayor
Jesse Falcon	Mayor Pro-Tem
Billy Huerta	Alderman Place 1
Yolanda Robles-Alvaro	Alderman Place 2
Isaac Dominguez	Alderman Place 3
Elizabeth Candela	Alderman Place 4
Epimenio Ysassi	City Attorney
Hilda Gonzalez	Bookkeeper

Guests: Frank Cantu Jr., Delma Cantu, Jasmine Vela, Leonard Mejia, Nathan Hinojosa, Stephanie Newsome, Lori Walker, Jackie Sanchez, Darlene Menn, Nell Angelo, Vangie Braddock, Rollie Braddock, Greg Russel, Geraldo Ochoa, Amanda Garcia, Belinda Nino, S. Paul Baen, Ramon Adamez, Maria Bargas, JoAnne Bargas, Ashley Gonzalez, Becky Veit, Randy Marroquin, Kazondra Maldonado, Carlos Bargas, Gilbert Rodriguez, Felipe Rodriguez.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

- A. Declare a quorum.
- B. Pledge the Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the Texas Flag
- C. Public Comments – Citizens to be heard PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE (3) MINUTES.
A PERSON SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ASSIGN THE
THREE (3) MINUTES TO ANYONE ELSE.

II. MONTHLY REPORTS:

- A. Monthly report from Allegiance – Report was given by Stephanie Newsom.
- B. Monthly Financial Report – Report was given by Paul Baen.
- C. Monthly Maintenance report-Mayor informed us that we have had three major water leaks with water closures. We are currently working on the lift stations.

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED:

- A. Discuss, consider and take action to approve the minutes of the Regular Call Meeting held on August 1, 2023. Motion was made by Isaac Dominguez to accept the minutes and Billy Huerta 2nd the motion to approve with corrections. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- B. Discuss, consider, and take action to block roads and provide police escort for Odem Homecoming parade. Isaac Dominguez made the motion to close the streets on Sept 5, 2023 for half the day and Elizabeth Candela 2nd the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- C. Discuss, consider, and take action to remove Kristan Langley and add Karina Kinglow to First State Bank of Odem's list of approve city employees to allow for pickup of bank bag. A motion was made by Jesse Falcon and 2nd by Isaac Dominguez. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- D. Discuss, consider, and take action to add Bookkeeper Hilda Gonzalez to the First State Bank of Odem's list of approved city employees to allow to view and make transfers between accounts approved by the Mayor. Motion was made by Elizabeth Candela and 2nd by Yolanda Alvaro. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- E. Discuss, consider, and take action to remove Virginia Garza and Janie Martinez from the Rally Bank account and add David Maldonado and Jesse Falcon. Motion was made by Isaac Dominguez and 2nd by Elizabeth Candela. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- F. Discuss, consider and take action to approve a variance request for Lori Walker. For Lots 68 & 69 on Webb St. and Lot 58 located on Compton St. Motion was made by Isaac Dominguez to approve with signatures from the owners of lot #70 and 2nd by Yolanda Alvaro. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- G. Discuss, consider and take action to allow the mayor to proceed with researching and placing the "Liquor by the Drink with Food" on the November election. Nathan Hinojosa spoke. Jesse Falcon made the motion to table and Elizabeth Candela 2nd the motion. All in favor and motion to table passed.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS (No Formal Action can be taken)

- H. Discuss, Texas Municipal League Policy Renewal. Paul Baen informed us that the renewal date is Oct 1st.
- I. Discuss, Windstorm Policy Renewal. Paul Baen informed us that the policy was renewed last year from \$65,000 to \$135,000 and it needs to be brought to the Council for approval.
- J. Discuss, Municipal Advisory Contract with SAMCO Capital. They are a Financial Advisory whos contract was allowed to expire. A new contract is needed.
- K. Discuss, Texas Municipal League Region II Quarterly Meeting Fri., September 29, 2023, Victoria Texas.
- L. Discuss, council members attending Texas Municipal League Annual Conference Dallas, Texas. October 4th, 5th, and 6th. Discussion was that council would not be attending this year if previously attended. Elizabeth Candela and Mayor Maldonado will be attending.
- M. Discussion on city tax rate. There will be a budget workshop on Saturday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pursuant to Sec. 551.074 of the Texas Government Code – Contracts/Personnel Matters: Council went in at 8:34 pm

- A. Consulting Contract – Paul Baen
- B. Employment Contract Letter – Gerald Ochoa

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Council returned at 10:11 pm

- N. Discuss, consider and take action to extend the consulting contract for Financial Advisor/Consultant – Paul Baen for an additional month. Motion was made to table by Jesse Falcon and 2nd by Isaac Dominguez. Motion to table passed.
- O. Discuss, consider and take action regarding letter to Police Chief providing timely notification in accordance under paragraph 24 of his Employment Agreement/Contract that his contract will not be renewed. Motion was made by Billy Huerta not to renew and to go month to month as an at will employee as his contract will expire October 2024. Isaac Dominguez 2nd the motion. Vote was made, 3 yes (Huerta, Alvaro and Dominguez) and 2 no (Falcon and Candela). Notice of contract not renewed (10/2024) then month to month.

IV. REPORTS:

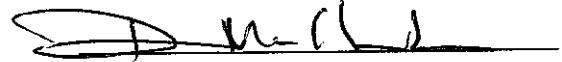
- A. Reports from Mayor, City Council and Staff may be given, but no formal action can be taken. Councilman Falcon informed us of the EDC Banquet on November 1, 2023. He said that the EDC will pay for 2 tables. Mayor Maldonado stated that he will be gathering information for an internal investigation. The windstorm policy is up for renewal on October 1, 2023 for \$136,000. November council meeting. \$600,000 sewer lines on Vista out for bids because over \$50,000 per council approval. Law enforcement agencies involved. Gathering information. Workshop on Saturday. Discussion on budget.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Adjourn Elizabeth Candela made the motion to adjourn and Jesse Falcon 2nd. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

NOTE: The City of Odem reserves the right to retire into executive session concerning any of the items on this agenda whenever it is considered necessary and legally justified under the Open Meeting Act Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.


Attest: Hilda González


City Mayor

