

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF ODEM, TEXAS  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

On this day, Tuesday January 2, 2024 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 Bargas Maldonado with the following members present to wit:

David Maldonado	Mayor
Billy Huerta	Alderman Place 1
Yolanda Robles-Alvaro	Alderman Place 2
Isaac Dominguez	Alderman Place 3
Jesse Falcon	Alderman Place 4/Mayor Pro-Tem
Elizabeth Candela	Alderman Place 5
Epimenio Ysassi	City Attorney
Hilda Gonzalez	Bookkeeper

Guests: Carlos Bargas, JoAnne Bargas, Yolanda Guerrero, Ruben Gonzalez, Rebecca Veit,

**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) MINUTS TO ANYONE ELSE.**

**II. MONTHLY REPORTS:**

- A. Quarterly report from Odem Police – Chief Gerald Ochoa
- B. Quarterly report from Municipal Court – Judge Yolanda Guerrero/Attorney Epi Ysassi
- C. Quarterly report from Odem EMS – Stephanie Newsome
- D. Quarterly report from Fire Department – Chief Robert Beltran

**III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

- A. Discuss, consider and take action to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 5, 2023 (see attachment)
  - ***Motion was made by Alderman Falcon to accept the minutes and Second by Alderman Candela, Motion passed unanimously***
- B. Discuss, consider and take action to approve the minutes of the Special Call Meeting held on December 16, 2023 (see attachment)
  - ***Motion was made by Alderman Candela to accept the minutes and Second by Alderman Alvaro, Alderman Candela asked to make a correction to the date on the heading from September to December. Motion passed unanimously***
- C. Discuss, consider and take action to approve Resolution # 631 (see attachment)
  - Providing **\$41,138.72** to the City of Odem Public Library for purchase and installation of new digital signage.
  - ***Motion was made by Alderman Falcon to approve Resolution #631 providing funding to the Odem Library for purchase and installation of a new digital sign, the motion was Second by Alderman Candela. After some discussion on how the new sign could be used, and the need for rules or by laws indicating what can or cannot be posted on the sign, the motion passed unanimously***
- D. Discuss, consider, and take action to remove Karina Kinglow from the First State Bank of Odem account.
  - ***Motion was made by Alderman Candela to remove Karina Kinglow from the First State Bank of Odem account, Second by Alderman Alvaro. After some discussion relating to why Ms. Kinglow was on the account, it was discussed that Ms. Kinglow only had authorization for pick up and drop off items at the bank on behalf of the city. The bank needed authorization to place Ms. Kinglow and also to remove her. Motion passed unanimously***
- E. Discuss, consider and take action to approve a 60-month term with TXU for energy services to take effect after the contract with Constellation has expired. (see attachments)
  - ***Motion was made by Alderman Falcon to discuss the 60-month term with TXU, Second by Alderman Dominguez. After some discussion phone contact was made with Ms. Angela Lew, Renewal Specialist with Integrity Energy. Ms. Lew provided answers to council's questions, the motion was modified by Alderman Falcon to include considering and taking action on the 60-month term with TXU, the motion was second by Alderman Dominguez, Motion passed unanimously***

- F. Discuss, consider and take action to approve placing staggered elections for city council members on the November ballot.
- **Motion was made by Alderman Falcon to discuss staggered elections for council and Second by Alderman Dominguez. Alderman Falcon provided a copy of HB 1434 relating to the staggering of terms of aldermen in a Type A general-law municipality. After discussion it was determined that an election was not needed, and that the governing body by majority vote may establish staggered terms. It was agreed that this item would be placed as a future agenda item. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.**
- G. Discuss, consider and take action to approve drainage improvements on the 400 block of Front St. (see attachment)
- **Motion was made by Alderman Falcon to discuss and take action to approve drainage improvement on the 400 Block of Front St. Second by Alderman Dominguez. After some discussion council asked if curbs could be added to the project, the mayor would be looking into this to see if the drainage district would also add curbs to the project. If needed funds from the street maintenance account could be utilized for the improvements. Motion passed unanimously**

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENT AND NON-ACTION ITEMS:

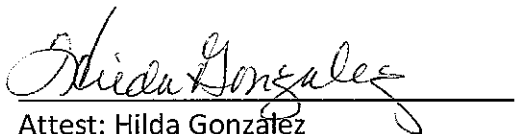
- A. Discuss Emergency Service Agreement
- **The council discussed the need for emergency service response incase of natural disaster, including the need for a contractual agreement with a company to provide the service if needed. The mayor will be looking into any agreements the city may have through the county and report back to council.**
- B. Discuss City impound fees
- **The council discussed the use of impound fees left after closing the facility. Some recommendations included using the fees to clean up the impound area and use fees to assist in the transition to the wrecker service provider.**
- C. Discuss a preventive maintenance plan for all city own vehicles i.e. maintenance, police, and fire departments.
- **The council agreed on the need for a preventive maintenance plan for all departments that included a weekly, quarterly and yearly list of preventive maintenance task. There was discussion related to vehicle that have not been serviced or are no longer in service due to maintenance issues.**
- D. Discuss progress of City Audits (Raul Hernandez or representative)
- **The mayor indicated that Mr. Hernandez is in the process of finishing up the 2021 audit and is working with Ms. Hilda to obtain additional information. Once the 2021 audit is complete Mr. Hernandez will move on to the 2022 to follow with the 2023 audit.**
- E. Discuss available training for municipal court clerk
- **Alderman Falcon discussed the need for continued training for municipal staff including the clerk. The council agreed if there was available training that would assist the staff be more effective that it should be made available. The mayor will be looking into the estimated cost for available trainings.**
- F. Discuss request by Edcot Coop Gin to develop an RV Park for employees on E. Humphries St. (see attachment)
- **The council discussed a request by Edcot Coop Gin to build an RV park adjacent to the cactus patch for seasonal workers. There was some discussion related to the benefits and challenges associated with the request including the extension of Second St., providing public services such as water and sewer and the added tax revenue. Alderman Falcon and Huerta as members of the Planning & Zoning Committee will work with Daniel of Edcot to discuss this development.**

#### V. REPORTS:

- A. Reports from Mayor, City Council and Staff may be given, but no formal action can be taken

#### ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Adjourn
- **Alderman Candela made a motion to adjourn and Second by Alderman Alvaro, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.**

  
Attest: Hilda Gonzalez



  
City Mayor