

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ODEM, TEXAS
MARCH 5, 2024**

On this day, Tuesday March 5, 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 Bargas 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
Sal Hernandez III	City Administrator

Guests: Carlos Bargas, JoAnne Bargas

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

A. All members of Council were present.

B. Public Comments:

Patrick King, a representative from AEP Texas, advocated for the Council to deny the utility rate hike being discussed under item IIID.

II. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A. No reports. Quarterly Reports are scheduled for **January, April, July, and October** of each calendar year.

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED:

A. Discuss, consider and take action to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 6, 2024 (See attachment)

- **Motion was made by Councilman Candela to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 6, 2024, the motion was seconded by Councilman Falcon. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion was carried four to one, with Councilman Huerta, Dominguez, Falcon and Candela voting yes, and Councilman Alvaro abstained.**

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT; Resolution #633

- Discuss, consider and take action to approve Resolution #633 intended to provide **\$850.00** a month to City Administrator Salome Hernandez III for compensation as the Ex-Officio for the City of Odem Economic Development Corporation. (See attachment)
- **Motion was made by Councilman Candela to approve Resolution #633 intended to provide \$850.00 a month to the City Administrator for compensation as the Ex-Officio for the Odem EDC. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dominguez. There was discussion regarding the role of the City Administrator as the OEDC Ex-Officio member.**

Mayor Maldonado read the resolution, a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- C. Discuss, consider and take action to add City Administrator Salome Hernandez III to all City of Odem bank accounts;
- **Motion was made by Councilman Falcon to add City Administrator Salome Hernandez III to all City of Odem bank accounts, the motion was second by Councilman Dominguez. There was no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**
- D. Discuss, consider and take action regarding AEP rate changes. PURA requires that municipal regulatory authority must take action on AEP Texas rate request within 35 days after the case is filed. AEP Texas recommends that your City Council act by April 4, 2024.
- **Motion was made by Councilman Alvarado to approve Resolution #634 and to deny AEP Texas request for approval of its base rates, the existing rates and charges of AEP Texas are found to be just and reasonable and the City adopts the existing rates to continue to be observed and to be in forced within the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Huerta. There was no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.**

IV. ANNOUNCEMENT AND NON-ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Update from the Office of Compliance and Monitoring for the Office of the Governor regarding the Operation Lone Star Grant #4387501.
- **Mayor Maldonado advised the council that the law office of Davidson, Troilo, Ream, & Garza were hired to look into the discrepancies associated with the grant. The review will start by reviewing documents submitted to the Office of the Governor (OOG) from the Police Department during the audit, they may also be requesting information from the Sheriff's Department to verify actual time worked, obtaining affidavits through interviews with previous staff. The goal of the review is to submit a comprehensive response to the OOG regarding the discrepancies. The City Administrator was working on policies for the future however he indicated there may be a need for updates to City Policy as well as ordinances to ratify the new policies.**
- B. Discuss amending and updating the Fee Schedule for Development Services to include Planning and Zoning Fees, Platting Fees, Residential Construction, Commercial Construction, Contractor Registration etc.
- **Mayor Maldonado indicated the need to look at fee schedules for development and compare them to other cities within San Patricio County. He asked council members if they knew when the last time that fees had been looked at. Councilman Huerta stated that in 2021 they had looked at updating fees however there were some dissatisfaction within the community and no action was taken. Councilman Alvarado also stated that during the last two years they had met about rate increases but no action was taken. It was agreed that the city should look and compare rates and consider the change at a later date.**
- C. Home inspections Kenny G's Home Inspection;

- **Mayor Maldonado advised council that at this moment the city is using Kenny G's Home Inspection to complete outstanding inspections. The inspections in question were not completed prior to the Chief of Police leaving and they were waiting to close on those homes. The council was advised the cost per inspection was \$75 and they felt the cost was reasonable. The mayor advised council about Bureau Veritas a company that does inspection for the city of Sinton and Taft. The Mayor said he would be forwarding information to them for review.**

D. Drainage improvements on Front Street San Patricio Drainage District;

- **Mayor Maldonado advised council he has been in contact with Mr. Michael Vanecek at the San Patricio Drainage District. Mr. Vanecek stated in his last email that the survey information was available, and they would be scheduling the work as soon as possible.**

E. Water improvement project ARPA (Hector Castaneda) and COG funds;

- **Engineer Hector Castaneda presented to the council the schedule for the water improvement project and stated that he expected the project to be completed by the end of July there was a change order that will be saving the city around \$50,000. He advised the council that they were working on plans to get the pumps manufactured. They were also going to go from steel pipe above ground to PVC underground which resulted in the savings. Mr. Castaneda stated that he would give a more definitive date on when actual work would begin. Council did not have any additional questions.**

F. New product update for pothole repairs;

- **The mayor advised the council that the maintenance department has been using the new products AquaPhalt on Nolan St. as well as other areas. It appears to be solid and will continue to use on other potholes around town. So far, they have been very happy with the results. Councilman Falcon stated that he has gone by Nolan St. on several occasions since the product was put down and it appears to be holding really well and he was also very impressed. The mayor advised council that the maintenance department would continue using the product around town and would be ordering more in the future.**

V. REPORTS:

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

- **Councilman Huerta asked the mayor about promoting a maintenance person to a supervisor position the mayor indicated that the individual is considered a team leader and not necessarily a supervisor at this time Councilman Huerta indicated that supervisory positions would need to go through council for approval. Councilman Huerta did indicate that it was good to have a contact person to oversee day-to-day operations. Mayor Maldonado advised council that that individual has taken on a lot of responsibilities over the past nine months and felt that he needed to be compensated for the additional duties.**
- **Councilman Dominguez asked about a workshop to discuss the future of the Odem Police Department. Mayor Maldonado advised the council that he wanted to ensure that all council members could be present and participate. Mayor Maldonado said he would be reaching out to each council member to try and schedule a date that would work for everyone's schedule.**
- **Mayor Pro Tem Falcon wanted to report about the upcoming Easter egg helicopter drop on March 24th at Veteran's park. Mayor Maldonado advised that they would be having two drops. One for**

the younger kids and a second for the older kids. There would be a designated area for kids who may have special needs or are very young to avoid any injuries.

ADJOURNMENT:

A. Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Falcon, seconded by Councilman Candela. The Council voted unanimously to adjourn.



Attest: Salome Hernandez III
City Administrator



MAYOR

