

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

On this day, Tuesday April 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 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
Salome Hernandez III	City Administrator

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

A. Declare a quorum

- **All members of the Council were present**

B. Pledge the Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the Texas Flag

C. Public Comments - Citizens to be heard – **NONE**

**II MONTHLY REPORTS:**

A. Quarterly report from Municipal Court -Judge Yolanda Guerrero/Attorney Epi Ysassi

- **Judge Guerrero gave a quarterly report on pending cases and revenue. Councilmember Dominguez asked for clarification cases marked under “payment plan.” Mayor Maldonado directed the Judge to utilize personnel provided by the Linebarger firm to assist in disposing of cases from 2016 to present. Councilmember Dominguez and Councilmember Alvaro asked for clarification of the revenue reported.**

B. Quarterly report from Odem EMS - Stephanie Newsome

- **Ms. Newsome gave a report on count and types of dispatch calls the EMS team had from February 27,2024 through March 24,2024. Mayor Maldonado asked who covers the city when EMS are called outside the city limits. Ms. Newsome stated that she shifts an EMS units close by.**

C. Quarterly report from Odem Maintenance Department - Jerry Sanchez

- **City Administrator Sal Hernandez gave the Maintenance Department report as Mr. Sanchez was unable to attend. Mr. Hernandez gave a report on pending work orders and the status of various vehicles, tool and equipment. He also reported three new maintenance employees have been hired. Mayor Maldonado commented that old sewer pipes may need to be ultimately replaced in specific parts of town. Councilmember Falcon commented on some reported issues regarding conduct of maintenance employees. Mr. Hernandez stated that he did address those concerns with staff. Councilmember Huerta mentioned that there were trackers in all the maintenance trucks and to look into how to access that data for evaluation. Mayor Maldonado asked that removal of the brush pile at the maintenance shop be looked into.**

- D. Quarterly report from Fire Department - Chief Robert Beltran
- **Chief Robert Beltran gave a report on count and types of dispatch calls the Fire Department was dispatched to. Chief Beltran reported the loss and gain of three volunteer fire fighters as well as department expenses. Chief Beltran also reported the need for new tires for Engine Seven along with completed repairs to various vehicles and equipment.**

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

- A. Discuss, consider and take action to approve the minutes of the Special Call Meeting held on March 26, 2024.
- **Councilmember Falcon made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments to add the members present. Seconded by Councilmember Alvaro. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Discuss, consider and take action to approve a proposed interlocal agreement between the City of Odem and San Patricio County regarding Animal Control.
- **Councilmember Falcon made a motion to approve the agreement. Seconded by Councilmember Candela. Representatives from the San Patricio Animal Control answered question from council and gave clarification of the limits of the agreement. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with noted amendments.**
- C. Discuss, consider, and take action to appoint The San Patricio County Animal Control Supervisor as the Local Rabies Control Authority.
- **Councilmember Falcon made a motion to approve the appointment. Seconded by Councilmember Alvaro. A vote was taken and the motion passed.**
- D. Discuss, consider and take action to approve Resolution #634, designating the City Administrator to act as custodian of the Odem Police Department's records and designating the City Administrator as the city's agent for service of a formal request for public records of the Odem Police Department.
- **Councilmember Candela made a motion to approve the resolution. Seconded by Councilmember Alvaro. Councilmember Dominguez asked for legal clarification. City Attorney, Mr. Ysassi gave clarification. There was discussion between councilmembers, the City Administrator and the City Attorney of the location of the police department files and having proper legal access. A vote was taken and the motion passed with amendments.**
- E. Discuss, consider and take action to approve Resolution #635, recognizing the service and commitment of the City of Odem Volunteer Fire Department members.
- **Councilmember Dominguez made a motion to approve the resolution. Seconded by Councilmember Candela. Mayor Maldonado recognized the meritorious service of the members of the Odem Volunteer Fire Department. A vote was taken and the motion passed.**

### IV. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS:

- A. Mayor reports regarding:
- 1) Update on Operation Loan Star and the review of the Governor's Office.
- **Mayor Maldonado reported that the documentation requested by the state was submitted along with a check for \$768.55 and that the Office of the Governor will soon deliver a final report.**

- 2) Update on Internal Department reviews.
  - **Mayor Maldonado mentioned some discrepancies at city hall and the police impound. The City Attorney provided the legal way for a city to sell municipal property.**
- 3) Update on potholes and drainage on Front Street.
  - **Mayor Maldonado stated that he and the City Administrator are analyzing the pot issue throughout the city and how to address it. He also gave an update on the status on the San Patricio Drainage District project that will address drainage issues on Front Street and that work was well underway.**
- 4) Update on homeless concerns.
  - **Mayor Maldonado reported on what can and can't be done in regards to homeless individuals.**

B. Councilman, Place Four Reports regarding:

- 1) Odem Economic Development Corporation activities and projects
  - **Councilmember Falcon reported on the recent Easter Egg Helicopter Drop Event on March 24, 2024. He yielded to Councilmember Candela to elaborate on the activities and the Economic Development Corporation's financial contribution to the Odem Events Association's event. Mayor Maldonado elaborated on some other details of the occasion.**

C. City Administrator Reports regarding:

- 1) Financial Report
  - 2) Technology and plan to digitize all records
  - 3) Initial assessment of staff, spending practices and city facilities.
- **The City Administrator reported consistencies and inconsistencies of payments and entries made into Incode regarding revenue and from the approved budget. Mr. Hernandez stated that he was investigating the inconsistencies. Mr. Paul Baen added additional clarification on the inconsistencies regarding entries into the system and how to improve. Mr. Baen stated that while there can be improvements, the utility and garbage revenue process is working well. Mayor Maldonado stated that more discussion regarding these issues will occur at the workshop meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. An audience member asked for clarification on the source of stagnation. Mayor Maldonado and Mr. Baen gave their analysis and that things are moving forward.**

**Mr. Hernandez gave a brief assessment of city staff and operations, some minor changes that have been made to city operations and how he will start to address lingering city functional issues. Mr. Hernandez also gave an update on the 2020-2021 fiscal year audit. He also briefed the council on some upgrades that will enhance the city's technology and some shortfalls. Mr. Hernandez also reported that that certain monthly payments made for the police department were stopped and that certain equipment that was not paid for will be returned. He also reported on other financial inefficiencies.**

- **Councilmember Huerta brought up that there were yard signs on city easements that needed to be removed. The City Administrator mentioned that Councilmember Falcon had previously brought this up and that it will be addressed.**

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

A. Adjourn

- Councilmember Candela made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Falcon. A vote was taken and the motion passed to adjourn at 9:40pm.



MAYOR



Attest: Salome Hernandez III  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

