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**The State of Texas  
The County of San Patricio  
The City of Mathis**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 22, 2021**

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551.041 of the Texas Government Code, the City Council of the City of Mathis held a **Regular Meeting** at 7:00 P.M. on **Monday, March 22, 2021**, at City Hall Annex, 401 E. San Patricio Avenue. **Public Notice** was hereby given that the City Council may elect to go into closed session at any time during the meeting in order to discuss matters listed on the agenda concerning personnel, consultation with the city attorney, real estate acquisition, or other purposes authorized under the "Open Meetings Act". In the event the City Council elects to go into closed session regarding an agenda item; the purpose of the closed session and the section of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the session will be publicly announced by the presiding officer.

**Mayor Ciri Villarreal led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

1. Roll call to determine presence of a quorum.

Mayor Ciri Villarreal, Councilwoman Sandra Quinones, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas, Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto, Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez, and Councilman David Garcia.

City Staff Present: City Manager Michael Barrera, City Secretary Mary Gonzales, Admin. Asst. Monique Alvarado, Finance Director Caron Vela, Police Chief Marshal Roush, Public Works Director Gary Paredez, City Attorney Lucinda Garcia and EMS Director Paul Pulley. Other City Staff were not required to attend.

City Staff Present via GToMeeting: Municipal Court Judge Frank Gonzales

Guests: Darryl Haas, Steve Cervantes, and Manuel Ortiz

2. Call to order.

**With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ciri Villarreal at 7:01 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Mathis will discuss and act on the following:

3. Consider approval of minutes for March 8, 2021, Regular Meeting.

**MOTION: Councilman David Garcia motioned to approve the minutes for March 8, 2021, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mary Olivarez and the motion carried 4-0.**

4. Citizens to be heard.

*Steve Cervantes stated that since he has moved here in 2009 he has seen many improvements especially when it comes to the roads, lighting and water. Mr. Cervantes shared that he is aware of the shortage of police officers that work for the city and certain officers taking unacceptable actions have had to be let go for the good of the city. Mr. Cervantes congratulated the council for approving a contractor from the region because he believes it is important to support construction companies and businesses that are local.*

5. Discussion and motion awarding a construction contract to Haas-Anderson Construction LTD., Corpus Christi, Texas for the 2020 Street and Utility Improvement Project, in accordance with the Plans and Specifications dated February 11, 2021, sealed by Robert H. Thonhoff, Jr., P.E., and addendums 1, 2, 3 and 4, based on low bid in the amount of \$3,275,235.45.

*Mr. Barrera informed that this is for the 2020 Street and Utility Improvements Project that is primarily funded by the certificate of obligation bond that was issued last year. Mr. Barrera explained that the work will consist of complete street rehabilitation and utility line replacement for West Fulton St. from Front St. to 6<sup>th</sup> St. The lateral streets will also receive similar work. A small section of W. Rockport St. between Live Oak and Aransas will also be repaired in this manner. East Mesquite and Evergreen Sts will also be reconstructed with utility line upgrades. Freeman St., E. Magnolia St., E. Rockport St., N. Hidalgo St., Montana St., W. Laredo St., W. San Patricio Ave, W. Chiltipin, N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., N. Oleander, N. Duval, Franklin St., S. Nueces, Nichols/Esperanza/S. La Fruta Streets, Orange St., S. Lee St, W. Magnolia St. and Flores Streets will receive a seal coat overlay. Additionally, Bee St. and Olivo St. will be reconstructed and have the utility lines upgraded. Mr. Barrera shared that there will also be drainage improvements on West Magnolia to address the long-standing flooding in the area. Mr. Barrera explained that \$2,850,031.45 is available for funding through the Bond 2020 Certificate of Obligation, \$120,204.00 is available for funding through the Drainage District, and \$305,000.00 is available for funding through the Street Franchise Reserves. Councilman Garcia stated that this was a long time coming for the community and that he as well as his peers are excited. Councilman Garcia thanked everyone who has been pushing for this issue.*

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Salinas motioned to approve awarding a construction contract to Haas-Anderson Construction LTD., Corpus Christi, Texas for the 2020 Street and Utility Improvement Project, in accordance with the Plans and Specifications dated February 11, 2021, sealed by Robert H. Thonhoff, Jr., P.E., and addendums 1, 2, 3 and 4, based on low bid in the amount of \$3,275,235.45. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sandra Quinones and the motion carried 5-0.

6. Consider motion suspending the effective date of the CenterPoint Energy 2021 Annual GRIP adjustment for the South Texas Division for a period of no longer than 45 days.

*Mr. Barrera informed that this action has been taken for several of the past years. Mr. Barrera explained that the motion will delay the effective date of the GRIP rate increase for natural gas customers by 45 days. Ron Chaney explained that GRIP helps maintain a safe supply of gas. Mr. Chaney shared that they are a regulated company and that since they have incorporated all of South Texas into one rate base they have been able to spread the cost over more customers.*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve suspending the effective date of the CenterPoint Energy 2021 Annual GRIP adjustment for the South Texas Division for a period of no longer than 45 days. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas and the motion carried 5-0.

7. City Manager's Report and all matters pertaining thereto:

Frank Gonzales, Municipal Court Judge

- *Municipal Court performance report*

*Mr. Gonzales reported the totals for the month of February 2021. Total collection was \$3,808.58; 0 community service hours; 23 transactions; 0 court appearances; 46 notices sent; 57 new cases filed; and 14 new warnings processed. Mr. Gonzales informed that they are pushing to start virtual court on the first week of April, using either GoTo Meeting or Zoom.*

Caron Vela, Finance Director

• *General Fund & Utility Fund variance financial report*

*Mrs. Vela reported on Revenues for the five month report as of February 28, 2021. The General fund has a property tax of \$716,638; sales tax is \$433,914; sanitation fee is \$226,534; EMS fee is \$147,455; other fees are \$238,860; the total revenue is \$1,763,401. Mrs. Vela then reported on the expenses per department with administration having \$349,976; code enforcement had \$6,073; parks had \$51,923; fire department had \$16,608; EMS had \$273,919; animal control had \$24,825; police department had \$406,141; municipal court had \$21,659; street department had \$168,511; sanitation had \$174,266; the total expenses were \$1,493,901. General fund had a total revenue of \$1,763,401 with expenses of \$1,493,901; leaving revenues over expenses at \$269,500. Councilman Garcia asked why the administration is already at 52.3% of their total budget. Mrs. Vela shared that election fees and the increase in staff are a part of the reason for the expense increase. Mr. Barrera shared that they also have to pay approximately \$30,000 for windstorm insurance at the beginning of the year. Mrs. Vela then reported on the utility fund revenues; water fee was \$389,292; customer service was \$10,800; wastewater fee was \$211,606; the total revenue is \$611,698. The expenses of water were \$369,674 and wastewater was \$194,309. The utility fund had a total revenue of \$611,698 with expenses of \$563,983; leaving the revenues over expenses at \$47,715. Councilman Garcia asked if there is any information yet on the water usage per household during the freeze. Mrs. Vela explained that they are working on getting that information to council but probably won't have the report out to council for another 2 weeks. Mrs. Vela explained that they are averaging past bills for the households so there shouldn't be anyone who is paying an excessive amount for water.*

• *Certificate of Obligation variance financial report*

*Mrs. Vela reported on the Certificate of Obligations as of February 28, 2021. Mrs. Vela shared that the two main payments being made are for the Incode Financial Software and for the Engineering Services. The total purchases are \$735,174; interest earned is \$10,889; and pending purchases is \$3,299,790.*

8. Close public meeting.

*The meeting went into closed session at 7:25p.m.*

9. Executive Session under Section 551.071 to deliberate and hear a complaint asserted by Jason Zapata against Public Works Director Gary Paredez

10. Executive Session under Section 551.071 to consult with City Attorney and Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.05 regarding complaint asserted by Jason Zapata against Public Works Director Gary Paredez

11. Reconvene public meeting

*The meeting reconvened in open session at 9:35p.m.*

12. Consider possible action from the foregoing City Attorney consultation executive session.

**MOTION:** Councilman David Garcia motioned to direct Mr. Barrera to implement a plan to remedy the concerns outlined in the complaint brought against Gary Paredez by former employee Jason Zapata. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto and the motion carried 4-0 with Councilwoman Sandra Quinones abstaining for the vote.

13. City Council requests for future Agenda Items.

*Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas requested information on how cost effective gas is getting from gas stations vs the cost for bulk fuel.*

*Councilwoman Mary Olivarez requested information regarding the EDC board members being on both the EDC board and City Council*

*Councilman David Garcia requested an agenda item that includes a description of the role of the Council Members.*

*Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested information regarding the street lights and sidewalk lamps that are currently not working and requested a report on the number of street lamps within the city that are not working.*

14. Adjourn

*With no further items to discuss, Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:42 p.m.*

**MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Eufemia Nieto and the motion carried 5-0.**

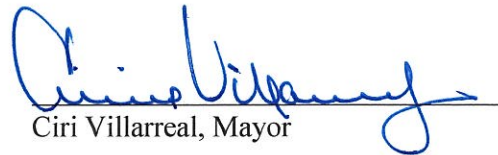
PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2021

UPON THE MOTION OF Councilwoman Sandra Quinones

SECONDED BY Councilwoman Mary Olivarez AND ADOPTED

BY A VOTE OF 5 TO 0.

ATTEST:

  
Ciri Villarreal, Mayor

  
Mary Acosta Gonzales, City Secretary