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

Regular Meeting

May 10, 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, May 10, 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.

Councilman David Garcia 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, and Councilman David Garcia.

Absent: Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez

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

Guests: Nere Villarreal, Elizabeth Breedlove, Isabel M. Rivera, Tommy Patterson, Rhonnie Smith, Eusebio Lerma

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. Administer Statement of Appointment and Oaths of Office to Mayor Ciriaco Villarreal, Councilmember Place 3 Israel Gonzales and Councilmember Place 5 David Garcia. The Mayor and Council were certified unopposed and declared elected to two year terms of office for the May 1, 2021, General Election.

City Secretary Gonzales administered the statement of appointment and Oaths of Office for the newly elected and unopposed candidates Ciriaco Villarreal, David Garcia, and Israel Gonzales.

4. Consider approval of minutes for April 26, 2021.

MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve the minutes for April 26, 2021, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman David Garcia and the motion carried 4-0.

5. Consider Proclamation in recognition of Emergency Medical Service week.

MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve the Proclamation in recognition of Emergency Medical Service proclaiming May 16th – 22nd, 2021 Emergency Medical Services Week. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas and the motion carried 4-0.

6. Citizens to be heard.

Eusebio Lerma informed council that he was a former Mathis Police Officer and shared that he had spoken in front of council in April regarding issues at the Mathis Police Department. Mr. Lerma was informed that Chief Roush made a comment using insensitive language at the Special Olympics event that the Mathis Police Department participated in. According to Mr. Lerma, Chief Roush was overheard stating, "what are we supposed to do, line-up the retards and tell them what to do". Mr. Lerma expressed his displeasure regarding the statement made when referring to special needs individuals because Mr. Lerma has family members who are autistic. Mr. Lerma also stated that because of a call he made when addressing a situation while employed he was forced to resign. He shared that he was aware of body camera issues and had already taken action to order new cameras but Mr. Lerma's body camera was not working on the day the call was made that led to his resignation. Mr. Lerma stated that it was wrong for the City of Mathis to make him choose between resigning and being fired dishonorably because according to the Human Resource Director, an investigation should have occurred and during the investigation Mr. Lerma could have had paid time off. Mr. Lerma shared that he learned this news after being forced to resign.

7. Close public meeting.

The public meeting closed at 7:22 p.m.

8. 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 Brent Grundstrom against Police Chief Marshal S. Roush.

9. Reconvene public meeting.

The public meeting reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

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

Councilwoman Quinones stated that the council has reviewed and discussed the reports and recommends directing the City Manager to address the deficiencies of the Police Department.

MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to direct the City Manager to address the deficiencies of the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Israel Gonzales and the motion carried 4-0.

11. City Council requests for future Agenda Items.

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas requested a COM regarding the street project and contracts, information on the construction pipeline on evergreen, and a COM regarding the underpass projects.

Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested action on the trimming the trees and maintaining the plants at the bulb outs and an update on the any lights not working.

12. Adjourn

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:39 p.m.

MOTION: Councilman Israel Gonzales motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sandra Quinones and the motion carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 24th DAY OF May, 2021

UPON THE MOTION OF Councilman Israel Gonzales

SECONDED BY Councilwoman Mary Martinez-Olivarez AND ADOPTED

BY A VOTE OF 4 TO 0.

ATTEST:


Mary Acosta Gonzales, City Secretary


Ciri Villarreal, Mayor

