



411 E San Patricio Ave. Mathis TX 78368
Tel 361-547-3343 Fax 361-547-3838

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

Regular Meeting

June 14, 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, June 14, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas, Councilman Israel Gonzales, Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez, and Councilman David Garcia.

Council Present via GoTo Meeting: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones

City Staff Present: City Manager Michael Barrera, Admin. Asst. Monique Alvarado, Finance Director Caron Vela, Public Works Director Gary Paredes, and Police Chief Marshal Roush. Other City Staff were not required to attend.

Guests: Rachael Barrios, Norma Ovalle, Viola Hernandez, Mark Heinz, Robert Ovalle

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 May 24, 2021, Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve the minutes for January 25, 2021, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas and the motion carried 5-0.

4. Citizens to be heard.

There were no comments or presentations.

5. Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget discussion and all matters pertaining thereto.

Mr. Barrera reviewed the revenue streams such as the Utility Fund, Debt Service Fund, and other Special Revenue Funds, which generate approximately \$2 million dollars of revenue for the city. Mr. Barrera informed that the Utility Fund revenues are projected to decrease due to the reduced water usage throughout the community. Mr. Barrera shared that the Debt Service fund is projected to be relatively unchanged and that the Hotel Occupancy Tax fund is looking to be slightly over what was originally projected. Mr. Barrera shared that the city is estimated to receive approximately \$584,000 for the American Rescue Plan. The ARP can only be used for certain categories and some specific city projects that might be eligible include, water tower maintenance, storage tank repairs, clarifier repairs and purchase and installation of automated water meters. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked for information on broadband infrastructure. Mr. Barrera explained that broadband infrastructure is anything to do with obtaining internet such as creating a city wide Wi-Fi network for Mathis residents to be able to access. Mr. Barrera explained that due to the decrease of water consumption he projected that the city will be under the mark by approximately \$21,000. Mr. Barrera shared that there are several ways the city can resolve this issue, such as, reducing spending in the water department budget, increasing rates, or implementing credit card fees. Councilman Garcia asked if the city is currently absorbing the cost of credit card fees. Mr. Barrera confirmed that the city is absorbing that cost and that the reasoning was to ensure that people had the ability to pay online due to COVID. Mr. Barrera explained that other cities absorb that charge normally but typically make up the cost by increasing the rate. Councilman Garcia suggested charging the individuals who chose to pay with credit card instead of increasing the rate for all customers. After some discussion, council agreed to start charging a credit card fee to customers who chose to pay with a credit card. Mrs. Vela shared that she will convey the message to the customers about the fee change. Mr. Barrera informed that he may present council with several budget options so that some can include the preliminary valuations of the city and some with decreased preliminary valuations since the original preliminary amount is not always guaranteed. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked what will happen to the money that is over the budgeted amount in general fund because he would like to see that money being used to improve safety measures at parks in the city. Mr. Barrera explained that the council will be able to decide what that money is used for such as lights for the park. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas shared that he has received complements on the construction on the Gonzalo Paiz Park walking trail. Councilman Gonzales asked if the Hotel Occupancy Taxes have always gone to the city or if that money used to go to the visitors bureau. Mr. Barrera explained that HOT is a tax that goes directly to the city and can be spent on economic development, meaning the city could share the money with MEDC. Councilman Garcia shared that in the past the city had a chamber of commerce and during that time the city did decide to send most, if not all HOT to the chamber of commerce. Mr. Barrera stated that he would bring back more information on what the HOT funds can be used for to clarify any questions.

No action taken.

6. Discussion regarding driving issues on Lamar St.

Mr. Ovalle informed that there have been many accidents due to speeding on Lamar Street and that a recent accident sent a car into their property. Mrs. Ovalle shared that the drivers who are speeding and end up in an accident do not stop to give their information to the residents and instead just drive away. Mrs. Ovalle informed that speed bumps were put today but that the locations of the speed bumps are not in an ideal location to stop the speeding. Mr. Paredes shared that the reason for the location of the speed bumps is that they are approximately halfway between the road and the railroad tracks. Mr. Paredes added that the speed bumps can be moved or removed if needed. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked what could be done by law enforcement to resolve the issue. Chief Roush shared that he can have officers make more of a presence on that road but there wouldn't be an officer there all day. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas expressed dislike for placing speed bumps on a good, smooth road. Councilman Garcia disagreed and believes that action is necessary as residents are being put in danger by the speeding. Mrs.

Ovalle shared that their house would have been destroyed due to a speeding accident if the vehicle would have not been stopped by their fence and palm tree. Mrs. Ovalle added that one of her neighbor's home would have also been destroyed due to a speeding accident if the speeding vehicle had not been stopped by the neighbor's parked truck. Mrs. Ovalle stated the importance of resolving the issues since that road is often used by students walking home or working out. Mr. Barrera shared that Lamar Street should be a school zone because of the proximity to the high school. Councilman Garcia suggested purchasing signs with lights to place in Lamar Street to indicate it as a school zone to hopefully deter speeding. Mayor Villarreal suggested adding more speed bumps closer to the railroad tracks so that the vehicles won't have enough time to accelerate to a dangerous speed. Mrs. Hernandez shared that some individuals will still speed over the speed bumps and that the only real way to stop the speeding is to hold the drivers accountable by giving tickets and fines. Councilman Garcia informed that the speed bumps were just placed on Lamar Street and it may take some time to see change. Mayor Villarreal suggested adding stop signs in front of the railroad tracks as another way to deter speeding and asking the county for help on enforcing it by giving tickets. Mr. Barrera recommended utilizing the speed bumps first for a few weeks and then adding stop signs if needed afterwards. Mayor Villarreal suggested adding the stop signs before adding more speed bumps in order to avoid unnecessary damage to the road. Chief Roush stated that he does need to check the restrictions on the distance items can be placed in regards to the railroad tracks before anything can be placed. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas recommended changing the speed limit for Lamar Street to 20 mph instead of adding more speed bumps. Mayor Villarreal emphasized ticketing drivers who are speeding until the issue is resolved. Mr. Barrera stated that having an officer there to issue the tickets will be hard due to the limited amount of staff the Police Department has. Councilman Garcia shared that in other surrounding areas drivers don't speed because it is known that drivers will be ticketed because those areas are consistent in ticketing speeding. Councilwoman Quinones asked if the Police Department can park a police marked vehicle on Lamar Street to deter speeding and randomly have an officer in the vehicle to give tickets. Chief Roush stated that he would look into that option as they do have a vehicle that is not currently in use. Council agreed to direct Mr. Barrera to leave the current speed bumps and add signage on Lamar Street.

No Action taken.

7. Resolution No. R-21-06-29 appointing a representative to the San Patricio County Comprehensive Industrial Master Plan Governing Board.

Mr. Barrera explained that the resolution would be appointing himself to the San Patricio County Comprehensive Industrial Master Plan Governing Board. Mr. Barrera shared that the city passed a resolution in January 2020 in support of the plan. He shared that the plan will identify areas suitable for industry, help decide what types of industry and help decide on an area that can have industrial development. Mr. Barrera stated that the board is considering having an alternative board member position if the board member is unable to attend. Mr. Barrera shared that since he is unsure when and where the meeting will be held he feels he would be the best for the position of the board since he is the most available for the city and then recommended having Mr. Paredes be the alternate board member since he is the next most informed.

MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve Resolution No. R-21-06-29 appointing City Manager, Michael Barrera, to the San Patricio County Comprehensive Industrial Master Plan Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Israel Gonzales and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Marshal Roush, Police Chief

- Police Department performance report

Chief Roush reported that patrol operations have been running smoothly but that there are currently 3 patrol positions still needing to be filled. Chief Roush informed that C.I.D. Sgt. Villegas was sent to Hostage Negotiation and Crisis training and is now certified and will be hosting a class to teach other officers what he has learned. Chief Roush reported statistics for the department and cases the C.I.D. has worked on and completed over the months of April and June. He explained that there has been a rise in calls to dispatch which tells him that the community is able to come together and notify law enforcement when there is trouble. Chief Roush stated that he is looking to set up a meeting and invite the community to create a neighborhood watch program. He then explained the procedure of filing a complaint to the council. Chief Roush reported that Mr. Armstrong at the Animal Shelter has found a PETCO Grant that the city can qualify for but some city ordinances need to be updated as one of the qualifications of the grant is that the shelter must be no kill.

Gary Paredez, Public Works Director

• *Public Works Department performance report*

Mr. Paredez reported for the April 2021 Monthly activity report, Mr. Paredez reported that there were 2 water leaks; 0 water taps; 19 sewer stoppages and 0 sewer taps during the month. Mr. Paredez reported that the total water production was 13,933,000 gallons and the percent of capacity was 21%, the total water production is lower compared to the same month of the previous year. The total water treated was 11.933 MG and the percent of capacity was 42%. There were 46 disconnects, 41 reconnects, and 5 closed. The total trihalomethanes were 48.5 for Lamar Street and 48.2 for Ohio Street. The total trihalomethanes for the process control are still pending. The street department has had 428 potholes patched with coldmix; 0 potholes patched with Dura Patch and did not do curb cleaning. The service orders issued were 90 for water; 19 for wastewater; and 25 for street. The services orders resolved for each department were 84 for water; 19 for wastewater; 4 for street. The pending service orders are 6 for water; 0 for wastewater; and 22 for street. There were 17 permits issued and the permit amount collected was \$3,001.54. Mr. Paredez informed council that the Citywide Clean-Up event was a success and is hoping that it is something that can be done more often.

Caron Vela, Finance Director

• *Special Revenue Funds Variance Report*

Mrs. Vela reported on Revenues for the twelve month report as of May 31, 2021. The Debt Service fund had a total revenue of \$352,878 with total expenses of \$205,008; leaving the revenues over expenses at \$147,871. The Utility Fund Bond Debt service fund had a total revenue of \$36,347 with total expenses of \$53,523; leaving the revenues under expenses at \$17,176. The Street improvement fund had a total revenue of \$48,455 with total expenses of \$0; leaving the revenues over expenses at \$48,455. The Hotel/Motel fund had a total revenue of \$36,980 with total expenses of \$39,683; leaving the revenues under expenses at \$2,702. The Festivals and Events fund had a total revenue of \$45,843 with total expenses of \$42,506; leaving the revenues over expenses at \$3,337.

Mary A. Gonzales, City Secretary

• *Agenda Quarterly Calendar*

Projected agenda items for the upcoming meetings were reported.

9. City Council requests for future Agenda Items.

Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez requested an update on the PILOT payments with the Housing Authority and an update on trash service at the Ice Machine.

Councilman David Garcia requested information on the mobile home ordinance amendments and an update on Freedom Fest.

Mayor Ciri Villarreal would like action on a resident who is complaining that stray dogs are stealing her newspapers and rugs from her property.

10. Adjourn

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:56 p.m.

MOTION: Councilman Israel Gonzales motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sandra Quinones and the motion carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 28th DAY OF June, 2021

UPON THE MOTION OF Councilman David Garcia

SECONDED BY Councilman Israel Gonzales AND ADOPTED

BY A VOTE OF 5 TO 0.

ATTEST:


Ciri Villarreal, Mayor


Mary Acosta Gonzales, City Secretary

