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

Regular Meeting

August 24, 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 **Tuesday, August 24, 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, Councilman Israel Gonzales, Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez, and Councilman David Garcia.

City Staff Present: City Manager Michael Barrera, City Secretary Mary Gonzales, Admin. Asst. Monique Alvarado, Fire Chief Adrian Ramirez, and EMS Director Paul Pulley. Other City Staff were not required to attend.

Guests: Marsha McNorton and Clay Elliot

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 August 19, 2021, Regular Meeting.

**MOTION: Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve the minutes for January 25, 2021, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez and the motion carried 5-0.**

4. Citizens to be heard.

*There were no comments or presentations.*

5. Motion approving the First reading of Ordinance No. O-21-08-10 approving and accepting the General Tax Roll of the City of Mathis, Texas for the Year 2021 and authorizing the Mayor to execute the certificate of approval and acceptance by affixing his signature and seal of the city of Mathis thereto.

*Mr. Barrera informed that this is an annual approval that council must pass to adapt the tax rates. The tax roll will be adjusted to be \$139,394,126 which is an increase of approximately 17 million dollars compared to the previous year. Mr. Barrera shared that the proposed tax rate is 1.098086 with is the same rate as the current year. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked how our rates compare to surrounding areas. Mr. Barrera explained that Mathis has a high tax rate compared to most and probably has the highest tax rate in the county. Mr. Barrera explained that due to the low valuations in Mathis, the city must compensate with the tax rate to receive enough to sustain the city services. Whereas, a city with a higher valuation can have a lower tax rate and receive just as much revenue to sustain their city.*

**MOTION:** Councilman David Garcia motioned to approve the First reading of Ordinance No. O-21-08-10 approving and accepting the General Tax Roll of the City of Mathis, Texas for the Year 2021 and authorizing the Mayor to execute the certificate of approval and acceptance by affixing his signature and seal of the city of Mathis thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Israel Gonzales and the motion carried 5-0.

6. Motion approving the proposed tax rate and calling the public hearing for Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

*Mr. Barrera informed that now that the tax roll has been approved, council must now approve the proposed tax rate and call for a public hearing on the rate. Mr. Barrera shared that the proposed tax rate is \$1.098086 and is recommending setting a public hearing on September 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Barrera added that the proposed Debt rate is \$0.319664, proposed M&O rate is \$0.778422, No-New revenue rate is \$0.948398, and the Voter Approval rate is \$1.134731.*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Sandra Quinones motioned to approve the proposed tax rate and calling the public hearing for Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Israel Gonzales and the roll-call vote carried 5-0.

7. Motion approving the First reading of Ordinance No. O-21-08-11 approving the budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022, providing for the intra and inter department and fund transfers and declaring an effective date.

*Mr. Barrera informed that this is the first reading adopting the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget and includes all discussed adjustments council recommended. Mayor Pro Tem Salinas asked if it is possible to allocate some funds to sanitation to help with the debris in the city. Mr. Barrera informed that he has already increased the funds for sanitation to potentially host more community clean up events with the roll off trash containers since they have been successful.*

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas motioned to approve the First reading of Ordinance No. O-21-08-11 approving the budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022, providing for the intra and inter department and fund transfers and declaring an effective date. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez and the roll-call vote carried 5-0.

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

Councilman Israel Gonzales, MEDC Board member

- *Economic Development Corporation monthly report*
- Councilman Gonzales reported that the MEDC has not had much movement but that an ad has been posted for the MEDC Executive Director position.*

Frank Gonzales, Municipal Court Judge

- *Municipal Court performance report*

*Mr. Barrera informed that due to staffing issues this report would be done at a future meeting.*

Marshal Roush, Police Chief

- *Police department performance report*

*Mr. Barrera informed that due to illness Chief Roush was unable to attend the meeting and will report on this item in a future meeting.*

Caron Vela, Finance Director

- *General Fund & Utility Fund Variance Report*
- *Certificate of Obligation*

*Mr. Barrera informed that Mrs. Vela was unable to attend the meeting and will report on this item in a future meeting.*

10. City Council requests for future Agenda Items.

*Mayor Pro Tem Richard Salinas requested a report from code enforcement on the debris in the city.*

*Councilman Israel Gonzales requested information on the lift in the sidewalk in front of the MEDC and requested getting a replacement eagle for the flag in the council chambers.*

*Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez requested replacing missing street signs throughout the city and requested repairs on the lights on Hwy 359.*

*Councilman David Garcia requested an update on the Downtown Sidewalk Improvement Project on the 100 Block of San Patricio and requested information on the dimensions for the entry of S. South Street since it seems narrow.*

*Mayor Villarreal requested information on the caution netting that is missing at the Downtown Sidewalk Improvement Project.*

11. Adjourn

*With no further items to discuss, Mayor Ciri Villarreal requested a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:32 p.m.*

**MOTION: Councilwoman Mary Martinez Olivarez motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman David Garcia and the motion carried 5-0.**

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF September, 2021

UPON THE MOTION OF Councilwoman Mary Olivarez

SECONDED BY Councilman Israel Gonzales AND ADOPTED

BY A VOTE OF 5 TO 0.

ATTEST:

  
Ciri Villarreal, Mayor

  
Mary Acosta Gonzales, City Secretary

