**PALM VALLEY CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

JANUARY 17, 2017

The City Council of the City of Palm Valley met in a Regular Meeting on the 17th day of January 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at 1313 N. Stuart Place Road, Palm Valley, Texas. The meeting was attended by the following persons:

 Mayor George Rivera

 Council members: John Widger, Debe Wright, Cynthia Thompson, Joe Jones

 Julie Martin

 City Attorney: Jason Mann

 City Secretary: Sylvia R. Trevino

 Staff Present: A. R. Garcia, Police Chief

 Rosendo Flores, Waterworks Supervisor

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Rivera led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None
4. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

With some minor corrections to be made, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to approve the minutes.

Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **DISCUSSION HELD ON LOW WATER PRESSURE CONCERNS**

Mayor Rivera explained the reason for this item was because of low water pressure concerns that have been expressed by residents.

Rosendo Flores, Waterworks Supervisor, explained that staff and Mayor Rivera had met with the General Manager and his assistant from the Harlingen Waterworks to get their input into the issue. He had asked if he could change from RP to a double check and it was determined that doing that would not accomplish a major increase in the water pressure. Another option was to do an assessment on the booster pump station. There is an impeller that is worn out and upon replacement; Mr. Flores will monitor the pressure readings. Another option would be the erection of a water tank. Location for this tank would be an issue because the City lacks that space.

Mayor Rivera added that the water pressure has been maintained at 37 PSI and the magic number is 35 PSI in order to be in compliance. At this point, he just wants the Council to be aware of the issue and to think about it for future costs. (Councilwoman Wright came in at this time). He further explained that there was a cost estimate back in 2011 that was submitted by Ferris and Flinn. Part of the options he submitted at that time was a pressure tank. The booster pump station was put in place but the pressure tank was not.

Councilwoman Martin stated that there is a meeting that will be set up with an independent party who is very familiar with the layout of the water pipes infrastructure in the City to get this opinion and what he would recommend.

Councilman Widger commented that if the residents have a problem with the water pressure, they should be calling Mr. Flores. Most of the time Mr. Flores has been able to address the problem.

Mayor Rivera recommended the continual monitoring of the booster pump station once the impeller is in place. The big concern would be if the PSI drops below 35.

1. **ORDINANCE ADOPTED ORDERING A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 6, 2017 TO ELECT ONE (1) MAYOR AND TWO (2) COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilwoman Wright made a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Councilman Widger seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **ORDINANCE ADOPTED ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 6, 2017 FOR OR AGAINST ‘THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX IN THE CITY OF PALM VALLEY AT THE RATE OF ONE PERCENT (1%)**

Councilman Widger made a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PALM VALLEY AND CAMERON COUNTY ELECTIONS DIVISION FOR THE LEASE OF ONE (1) AUTOMARK TO BE USED IN THE UPCOMING CITY GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION**

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to approve the lease agreement in the amount of $540 for the use of one (1) AutoMark.

Councilman Widger seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT WITH LONG CHILTON LLP FOR AUDITING SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16**

The City Secretary stated that Long Chilton is now Carr, Riggs and Ingram and distributed a handout regarding the new company.

Mayor Rivera commented that the intent was to have the audit completed before the election of new Council members.

Councilman Widger noted that the cost of the audit remains the same as last year.

Councilman Widger made a motion to approve the Letter of Engagement.

Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **ORDINANCE ADOPTED AMENDING THE EXISTING ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 72) REGARDING PARKING REGULATIONS**

Jason Mann, City Attorney, stated that he had added language that would specify the purpose behind the ordinance.

Councilman Widger added that the ordinance allows the residents up to two permits per residence authorizing the parking of a vehicle on a public street within the City during the prohibited hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and allows the Mayor and the Chief of Police or the Acting Mayor discretion to approve exceptions. Permits may be issued for no more than three consecutive nights in a 30-day period.

Councilman Widger made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **PERMISSION FOR THE USE OF CITY PROPERTY AND APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT OF A VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AUTHORIZED**

Charles Ramsey stated that he had appeared before the Parks Board but was asked to come before the City Council to seek permission and approval of the concept. He explained he had been approached by Mr. Jim Weeks with the idea of erecting a flagpole on Polo Circle with the flags and POW/MIA banners underneath. Flag size would be 3’x5’. Mr. Ramsey presented an estimated cost summary outlining the work and items required, the source and the estimated cost. The initial cost of preparing the site and setting up the flagpole with solar lighting and the concrete would run about $450, tax included. Mr. Ramsey felt confident that the labor to pour the concrete would be donated. Other options would add natural rock design blocks and pavers which would be through a fund raising project---approximately $1,000. Mr. Ramsey felt that all or most of the project could be handled through donations.

A minor downside was brought up in that the property on Polo Circle, the suggested location, would only be seen by those that walk, run or jog or bike in Palm Valley.

Councilwoman Martin suggested the spot in front of the City property on Jack Nicklaus. This would be a more attractive location. Councilman Widger pointed out that the issue would be whenever the pipe has to be replaced by the Irrigation District.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to approve the concept of a Veterans Memorial on Polo Circle or any other city owned property pending approval by the Council.

Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **PROVISION OF WATER SERVICE TO THE LANDSCAPED MEDIAN BETWEEN THE ENTRY AND EXIT OF EL CAMINO REAL TO CONTINUE**

Mayor Rivera pointed out that the City does not own the piece of land and that the Council had authorized water service for one year and then a 3-month extension followed. That term expired in January. The billing has averaged about $125 per month.

Councilwoman Martin asked if the Club would consider selling the piece of property to the City. Mayor Rivera replied no—the Country Club will not sell. Mayor Rivera recommended that the City continue to pay for the water usage so as to keep the median watered. The median is the main entryway to the City.

Councilman Jones suggested that the City consider paying ½ of the bill and the Club paying the other half since both have use of the property.

Councilman Jones made a motion that the City considers paying ½ of the bill and the Club pays the other half to start with the April billing.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Rivera asked that the City Secretary send a letter to the Club notifying them of the action taken by the Council.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA**:
2. Police Monthly Report – November/December 2016
3. Municipal Court Monthly Report – November/December 2016
4. Monthly Check Listing – November/December 2016
5. Monthly Financial Report – November/December 2016
6. Investment Report – November/December 2016
7. Council/staff liaison reports

Chief Garcia went over his report and indicated there has been no property crime report in 21 months and he attributed to Mr. Ramsey and his Neighborhood Watch volunteers.

Mayor Rivera read a thank you note from Mr. Carter Huber praising Officer Cruz for the way he handled an incident at Mr. Huber’s home.

Under Council/Liaison staff reports, Mayor Rivera asked that Rosendo Flores start addressing the heights of the trees on the streets. Mr. Flores also briefed the Council on the backflow tests that are required by the State.

Rosendo Flores commented that most of the residents have been cooperating and he should be finished by June or July communicating with the residents about the required backflow tests. Thereafter, the residents will receive a letter once a year reminding them of the testing. He commented that he is having more problems with those residents that have water wells.

Councilwoman Thompson commented that website modifications with MPC Studios will start soon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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George Rivera, Mayor

Attest:

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Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary