**PALM VALLEY CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

February 21, 2017

The City Council of the City of Palm Valley met in a Regular Meeting on the 21st day of February 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. **PRESENTATION BY ANTHONY COVACEVICH/SENIOR CONSULTANT, GRANTWORKS, INC. REGARDING GRANTS**

Mr. Anthony Covacevich gave a brief presentation on Grantworks, Inc. and indicated Grantworks is the largest grants administrator in Texas. Mr. Covacevich introduced Oralia Cardenas, a Senior Consultant, also with Grantworks. She is from the Austin office and Mr. Covacevich is based out of the Weslaco location. Mr. Covacevich explained that they work with cities to find out what their needs are and to see what they qualify for in terms of funding. Sometimes there are ‘pockets’ within a city that might qualify for funding even if there are no low to middle income requirements. He stated that first they look to see if a grant requires administration and then they negotiate the rate. Most grants require a local match. Grantworks is the number one provider of grant administration services under the Texas Community Development Block Grant program; the Texas Capital Fund; CDBG-Disaster Recovery; Texas HOME; TxDOT local grants; Texas Parks and Wildlife recreational program and CDBG Comprehensive Planning. Grantworks has the ability to handle every issue that arises in preparing applications and implementing projects.

Mr. Covacevich added that, typically, a City does not hire a consultant. You have to go through an RFQ or an RFP. He stated that it helps them if a City has a comprehensive plan in place.

When asked about grant funding for street projects, Ms. Cardenas stated that street funding is hard to come by and in speaking further on a comprehensive plan, Ms. Cardenas commented that the City would not qualify for funding for a comp plan but it is something that they would recommend that the City have in place.

1. **NO DISCUSSION HELD ON THE ABOVE PRESENTATION**

1. **PRESENTATION BY JAIME GUTIERREZ-COLINA VARGAS, AICP AND ASSOCIATES REGARDING GRANTS**

Mr. Gutierrez stated that he has been working with Mr. Carlos Colina-Vargas off and on for about 35 years. The firm has been involved in more than 450 projects, throughout the 40 years of professional practice in Texas. They have procured assistance for numerous projects, many in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The majority of their projects were assisted by grants from Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Gutierrez briefed the Council on some of the projects they have administered and further explained the loan process and interest rates that can be obtained. He commented that if the City’s financials are in order, funding is assured. Mr. Gutierrez stated that a City first has to identify its needs and they, then, will try to match needs with funding sources. Mr. Gutierrez suggested that the City have an engineer provide cost estimates for a specific project and then the City could contact Colina-Vargas.

1. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2017**

Noting some minor corrections by Councilman Widger, Councilman Widger made a motion to approve the minutes (with corrections). Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion.

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

Moving to **Item No. 7----DISCUSSION REGARDING GRANTS,** Mayor Rivera asked what happens now? Do we enter into an agreement? For how long? And is it inclusive?

Councilwoman Martin stated that some grants have administration and the grantwriters get paid through there. If there is no administration, then the City would pay.

Mayor Rivera commented that if a fee is charged, it does not necessarily guarantee a grant will be awarded. He stated that he would be more concerned about the contents of an agreement.

Councilman Widger stated that there are two issues: 1) doing a comprehensive plan for the City and 2) hiring whoever brings the grant. A comp plan is a set fee. The City would not qualify for a ‘free’ comp plan.

Mayor Rivera suggested looking at a ‘sample’ agreement with both firms and find out what it will cost for a comp plan and bring back both agreements back to a meeting.

Councilwoman Martin stated that Alfonso Gonzalez has proposed a fee for a comp plan and his engineering firm actually did the City’s infrastructure.

1. **RESOLUTION APPROVED FOR THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CITY’S INVESTMENT POLICY**

There being no changes to the City’s investment policy, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the resolution.

Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion.

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

1. **SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATION FOR A TRIATHLON IN PALM VALLEY TABLED**

This item was tabled upon a motion by Councilman Jones and a second by Councilman Widger. The application was not submitted in time for the meeting.

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

Councilman Widger commented that the Parks Board approved changing the date of the 4th of July parade from July 1 to July 4.

1. **BUDGET ADJUSTMENT APPROVED TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION AT CITY HALL**

Mayor Rivera explained that the funds for the renovation were actually approved in the 2015-16 budget. He asked that the budget adjustment form be corrected to reflect approval in 2015-16.

Councilwoman Wright made a motion to approve the budget amendment to allocate $17,000 for the City Hall renovations.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

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

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
   1. **Police Monthly Report – January 2017**
   2. **Municipal Court Monthly Report – January 2017**
   3. **Monthly Check Listing – January 2017**
   4. **Monthly Financial Report – January 2017**
   5. **Investment Report – January 2017**
   6. **Council/staff liaison reports**

Chief Garcia briefly went over his report. He stated there was one incident report on a wanted subject who was turned over to Cameron County Sheriff’s office. He also reported briefly on the racial profiling report which is an annual report. This is the 4th or 5th year he has done this type of report. Chief Garcia reported that several citations have been issued for moving violations and motor vehicle stops.

Councilwoman Wright commented that more people have been commenting that there is more patrolling going on----‘people are noticing’.

Chief Garcia informed the Council that the City is no longer lending out possum traps. The City could incur a liability when it disposes of an animal outside the County.

Regarding the sale of the old truck, Chief Garcia again stated that there are two interested parties: Los Indios and Indian Lake.

Mayor Rivera commented briefly on the budget and stated that the budget is projected to be $30,000 under by end of fiscal year. The budget is getting lean with seven more months left in the fiscal year.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. upon a motion by Councilwoman Martin and a second by Councilman Widger.

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George Rivera, Mayor

Attest:

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Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary