

**PALM VALLEY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
REGULAR
MEETING
September 15, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Palm Valley met in a Regular Meeting on the 15th day of September 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at 1313 N. Stuart Place Road, Palm Valley, Texas. Attendance by the Council members was via ZOOM videoconferencing. (ZOOM videoconferencing was available for the public).

Participants via ZOOM:

Mayor George Rivera
Councilman Eric Hoff
Councilman Jerry Wade
Councilman Michael Galvan
Councilwoman Lisa Taylor
Councilwoman Cynthia Thompson

Jason Mann, City Attorney

City Secretary: Sylvia R. Trevino (in person)

Staff present: Chief A. R. Garcia (in person)
Rosendo Flores, Director of Public Works (in person)
Elsa Guajardo, Support Services Aide

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rivera.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance followed led by Mayor Rivera.
3. **LEGISLATIVE PRAYER** - The Legislative Prayer was led by Councilwoman Thompson.

At this time Mayor Rivera informed the Council that one staff person had tested positive for the Corona virus and City Hall will continue to remain closed to the public. The staff person has recovered and tested negative before returning to work.

10. **RESOLUTION APPROVED ADOPTING TCAPS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AND GEXA ENERGY'S COMMERCIAL ELECTRIC SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR POWER TO BE PROVIDED ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2023**

Margaret Somereve, representing the Texas Coalition on Affordable Power, briefed the Council on the savings that would be derived by the City by entering into a contract now with GEXA for affordable power into the year 2023. Strategic Hedging program (SHP) will now be offered to its members and, thus, instead of buying electricity through a fixed price longer term contract, SHP will procure one twelfth of the annual supply each month, two years forward year-to-year. This will bring a savings of \$500-\$1300 extra every year

Mayor Rivera commented that the City is a small user of energy and every bit of savings will help.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to approve the resolution.

Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion.

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.
5. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – Special Meeting of August 22, 2020 and Special Meeting of September 8, 2020.**

Councilman Wade made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilman Galvan seconded the motion.

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

6. **PUBLIC HEARING HELD TO HEAR COMMENTS FOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSED TAX RATE OF \$0.515463/\$100 VALUATION**

Mayor Rivera announced that the tax rate remains the same as last year considering that there is an additional revenue of about \$10,000 due to new valuations.

Mayor Rivera declared the public hearing open.

There being no comments, Mayor Rivera declared the public hearing closed.

7. **ORDINANCE ADOPTED SETTING THE TAX RATE OF \$0.515463/\$100 VALUATION**

Councilwoman Taylor 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.

8. **PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR COMMENTS FOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21**

Mayor Rivera stated this budget anticipates a projected revenue of \$853,800 and total projected expenses of \$784,400 in the City's general fund with an anticipated surplus of \$69,400.

He added that in the Water Account, the budget anticipates a projected revenue of \$743,700 with anticipated expenses of \$661,300 leaving an estimated surplus of \$80,600. There is no major capital spending except for more tasers, and more bullet proof vests for the Police Department and maintenance on six drainage manholes.

Mayor Rivera stated that the 'cash' on hand as of August 31, 2020 is approximately \$1,919,807 and this budget allows the City government/staff to start planning on funding for the major challenges the City will be encountering due to drainage and its aging infrastructure. These issues will be addressed right after the budget has been approved.

Mayor Rivera declared the public hearing open.

There being no comments, Mayor Rivera declared the public hearing closed.

9. ORDINANCE ADOPTED APPROVING THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to adopt the ordinance approving the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-21.

Councilman Galvan seconded the motion.

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

11. ORDINANCE NO. 2020-5 AMENDED TO REFLECT FOR THE EXTENDED DATES OF EARLY VOTING AS PER THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION ISSUED ON JULY 27, 2020

Mayor Rivera explained that early voting period has been extended by the Governor's proclamation to run from October 13, 2020 through October 30, 2020. Because of the pandemic there will be some minor restrictions on how voting is conducted. Early voting will be held at City Hall and curbside voting will be available. A flyer will be distributed door-to-door explaining further election information.

Councilman Hoff 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.

12. RESOLUTION APPROVED AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO INSTITUTE AND ADMINISTER A TEMPORARY POLICY FOR PROVISION OF COVID-19 HAZARD ASSIGNMENT PAY DURING THE DECLARED STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS WITH THE CITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Rivera reminded the Council that they had approved a 2-week paid vacation as a COVID incentive for coming to work during the pandemic without hesitation. But for the City to be reimbursed for this expense for the officers, a resolution must be approved and put in place. Additionally, if there should be another payout the City will already have a resolution for the police officers only.

Councilman Galvan made a motion to approve the resolution.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

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

13. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Police Monthly Report – August 2020**
- B. Municipal Court Monthly Report – August 2020**
- C. Monthly Investment Report – August 2020**
- D. Monthly Financial Report (budget) – August 2020**
- E. Monthly Check Listing – August 2020**
- F. Council/staff liaison reports**

Councilwoman Taylor asked the Chief how things went during the recent storm.

Chief Garcia replied that all went well Staff started getting ready the day before with sandbags. Some streets were closed for a short while, but no one got flooded. The streets were closed with chains and barricades to prevent cars from coming into the City. The water drained when it needed to. The area hit the threshold mark for public assistance so, hopefully, the City can get 75% reimbursement.

Mayor Rivera offered his thoughts on implementing a fee for infrastructure needs. He stated that he contacted a couple of residents to obtain their finance expertise on a bond package to be able to make an intelligent decision on what our #1 priorities are in the City of Palm Valley. He stated that he expects to provide further information in October.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Wade seconded the motion.

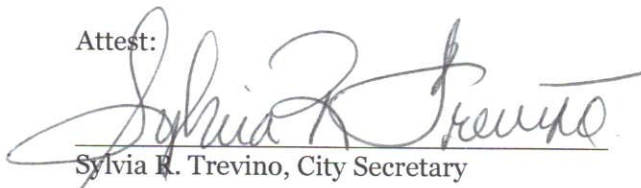
Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hoff and a second by Councilman Galvan, the Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



George Rivera, Mayor

Attest:



Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary